FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 6 *10 January 1978*

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Palestinians in Beirut Mark Martyrs Day [VOP]	A	1	1/A7
Abu Iyad Speech at Rally [VOP]	A	1	1/A7
'Arafat Speaks at Funeral of PLO Representative [VOP]	A	2	1/A8
Abu Iyad Names Abu Nidal [London GUARDIAN 9 Jan 78]	A	3	1/A9
'Arafat Rejects Resettlement of Palestinians	A	3	1/A9
'Arafat Meets With U.S. Congressmen for 7 Hours [VOP]	A	4	1/A10
Findley Quoted on 'Arafat Proposals	A	4	1/A10
Paper Says Iraq Decides to Make Peace With Syria	A	5	1/A11
Soviet Mediation Reported [London AL-MANAR 7 Jan 78]	A	5	1/A11
Carter Said To Reject Meeting With Palestinians [Amman AD-DUSTUR 8 Jan 78]	A	6	1/A12

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Algerian President Continues Visit to Arabian Peninsula	C	1	1/A13
Departure From Saudi Arabia	C	1	1/A13
Arrival in Bahrain	C	1	1/A13
Arrival in UAE	C	1	1/A13
Talks With UAE President	C	1	1/A13
Resumption of Talks	C	1	1/A13
UAE Foreign Minister Comments	C	2	1/A14
Departure From Abu Dhabi	C	2	1/A14
Arrival in PDRY	C	2	1/A14
Talks in PDRY 'Successful'	C	2	1/A14
Arrival in YAR	C	3	1/B1
Talks With Al-Ghashmi	C	3	1/B1
Al-Ghashmi Holds Banquet	C	3	1/B1
Meeting With Al-Asnaj	C	3	1/B1
Departure Statement	C	4	1/B2
Arrival in Qatar	C	4	1/B2
Report on Talks	C	4	1/B2
Departure From Doha	C	5	1/B3
Arrival in Kuwait	C	5	1/B3
Talks With Amir	C	5	1/B3
Departure From Kuwait	C	6	1/B4

BAHRAIN

Prime Minister Al Khalifah Leaves for Europe	C	6	1/B4

KUWAIT

Uganda President Amin Pays Condolence Visit	C	6	1/B4

Departs 8 Jan C 6 1/B4

SAUDI ARABIA

Shah Arrives in Riyadh, Begins Talks With King C 6 1/B4
Report on Talks C 7 1/B5
U.S. Congressional Delegation Arrives in Riyadh C 7 1/B5
Former UK Prime Minister Arrives in Riyadh C 7 1/B5
Japanese Foreign Minister Sonoda To Arrive 17 Jan C 8 1/B6
Prince Fahd Receives Omani Minister of State C 8 1/B6

YEMEN--YAR

Prime Minister al-Ghani Returns From Kuwait C 8 1/B6
Foreign Minister Sends Condolences to Kuwait C 8 1/B6
Minister Reports to Al-Ghashmi on Ethiopia Visit C 8 1/B6
Al-Ghashmi Receives Ethiopian Ambassador 3 Jan C 9 1/B7
Somali Minister Arrives in San'a', Makes Statement C 9 1/B7
Radio: Israeli Intransigence 'Embarrassed' Carter C 9 1/B7
ATH-THAWRAH Sees Solidarity as Answer to Begin Proposals C 10 1/B8
[30 Dec 77]

EGYPT

Egyptian Delegations to Political, Military Committees D 1 1/B9
Political Committee Delegation D 1 1/B9
Military Committee Delegation D 1 1/B9
Members of Israeli Military Committee Delegation Arrive D 1 1/B9
Egypt To Insist on Issuing Declaration of Intent D 1 1/B9
Compensation To Be Demanded for Sinai Oilwells D 1 1/B9
Shah of Iran Arrives in Aswan 9 Jan; Met by As-Sadat D 2 1/B10
Shah's Arrival Statement D 2 1/B10
As-Sadat, Shah Begin Talks D 2 1/B10
Foreign Minister Discusses Visit D 3 1/B11
Talks End, Dinner Held D 3 1/B11
Predeparture Press Conference D 3 1/B11
Departure Ceremony D 4 1/B12
Cairo Press: King Husayn Invited To Visit Egypt D 5 1/B13
Egyptian-Sudanese Trade Committee To Convene D 5 1/B13
Swedish Energy Minister Johannson Visits Egypt D 5 1/B13
Report on Arrival D 5 1/B13
Protocol Signed D 5 1/B13
Report on Departure D 6 1/B14
Economy Minister As-Sayih Announces W. German Credit D 6 1/B14
As-Sadat Sends Reply Cable to W. German Chancellor D 6 1/B14
Visits of French, Italain, UK Officials Reported D 7 1/C1
French National Assembly President D 7 1/C1
Italian Senate President D 7 1/C1
Former UK Leader Heath D 7 1/C1
Radio Reports 2 Jan People's Assembly Session D 7 1/C1
Al-Qaysuni Statement D 7 1/C1
Prime Minister's Statement D 8 1/C2
Ghali, 'Abd al-Majid Address Parliamentary Committees D 8 1/C2
Papers Comment on Shah's Visit, Israeli Settlements D 9 1/C3
AL-AKHBAR: Gap Between Israeli, Egyptian Views Still Wide D 10 1/C4
[7 Jan 78]
Radio Discusses Recent Carter Statements on Middle East D 11 1/C5

IRAQ

Husayn Receives Lebanese Nationalist Delegation E 1 1/C6
Vice President Ma'ruf Arrives for Official Visit to GDR E 1 1/C6
Palestinian Rejectionist Front Secretary Ends Visit E 1 1/C6
Hungarian Peace Council Delegation Arrives in Baghdad E 1 1/C6
Meets With Iraqi Counterpart E 2 1/C7
Meets With Ba'th Official E 2 1/C7
Scientific Cooperation Protocol Signed With USSR E 2 1/C7
Finnish Minister of State Arrives for Official Visit E 3 1/C8
Eritrean Labor Union Delegation Arrives in Baghdad E 3 1/C8
Briefs: Iraqi-Iranian Cultural Agreement; Swedish Friendship Delegation E 3 1/C8

JORDAN

Husayn Receives Widow of Assassinated PLO Representative F 1 1/C9
AD-DUSTUR Lauds President Boumediene's Visit F 1 1/C9
British Defense Secretary Winds Up 2-Day Visit F 2 1/C10
Received by Badran F 2 1/C10
Meets With Husayn F 2 1/C10
Leaves Amman 9 Jan F 2 1/C10
King Husayn Receives UAE Court Official F 2 1/C10
Royal Court Chief Leaves F 2 1/C10

LEBANON

Sarkis Outlines Lebanon's Interests in Settlement G 1 1/C11
Al-Jumayyil, Abu Iyad Comment G 2 1/C12
Memorandum on Palestinian Rehabilitation Issued G 2 1/C12

SYRIA

PDRY Prime Minister To Arrive 10 January H 1 1/C13
Al-Asad Receives Arab Popular Conference Delegation H 1 1/C13
President's Remarks H 1 1/C13
Meeting With Ba'th Official H 2 1/C14
TISHRIN Reiterates Position on As-Sadat Initiative H 2 1/C14
President Receives British Members of Parliament H 3 1/D1

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Boumediene Cables King Khalid After Visit I 1 1/D2

LIBYA

JANA: Chad Harasses Libyan Diplomats in Ndjamena I 1 1/D2

MAURITANIA

Algerian Call for Sahara Discussion Rejected I 1 1/D2

MOROCCO

Paper Claims Major Operation Undertaken in Sahara I 2 1/D3

SUDAN

Ethiopian Refugees Leave Sudan for Addis Ababa I 2 1/D3

ISRAEL

Egypt's Proposals for Political Talks Outlined N 1 1/D4
[MA'ARIV 9 Jan 78]
Differences Over Agenda [DAVAR 10 Jan 78] N 1 1/D4
'Al Hamishmar Report N 2 1/D5
Begin Denies Reports on Sinai Land Exchange N 3 1/D6
Arens Comments on Government's Settlement Policy N 3 1/D6
Sharon Comments Reported N 4 1/D7
Committee Endorses Policy N 5 1/D8
Peres Opposes Full Withdrawal From Sinai, Rafah N 5 1/D8
Ben-Elisar Said To Pay Quick Visit to Romania N 5 1/D8
MA'ARIV Report [10 Jan 78] N 5 1/D8
West Bank Arabs Join Begin in Opposing Jordan Rule N 6 1/D9
[MA'ARIV 9 Jan 78]
Further Developments Reported Concerning New Settlements N 6 1/D9
Gush Emunim at Shilo N 6 1/D9
National Fund Teams in Sinai N 7 1/D10
Plans Laid for Rafah [POST 8 Jan 78] N 8 1/D11
Weitz on Rafah Settlements [POST 8 Jan 78] N 9 1/D12
POST Report on Progress [9 Jan 78] N 10 1/D13
Settlement Budget Up Sharply [DAVAR 9 Jan 78] N 11 1/D14
Rafah Settlers Meet Yadin [MA'ARIV 10 Jan 78] N 11 1/D14
Many Seek Land in Yamit N 11 1/D14

SOUTH ASIA

BANGLADESH

FRG Economic Cooperation Minister Arrives for Visit S 1 1/E1
Implementation of Farakka Accord Runs Into Difficulty S 1 1/E1

INDIA

Callaghan, Desai Reach Agreement in Nuclear Talks S 2 1/E2
[London GUARDIAN 10 Jan 78]
Callaghan Addresses Parliament S 3 1/E3
Desai Discusses Nuclear Policy With U.S. Senators S 4 1/E4
Gandhi Appears Before Shah Commission in Delhi S 4 1/E4

PAKISTAN

Bhutto 'Democracy Day' Demonstrators Arrested S 5 1/E5
Nusrat Bhutto Presides Over PPP Meeting in Lahore S 5 1/E5
Baluchistan Authorities Withdraw Conspiracy Charges S 6 1/E6

SRI LANKA

Finance Minister Leaves for Official Visit to India S 6 1/E6
Briefs: Foreign Oil Exploration S 6 1/E6

Item 856-B-6 PrEx 2.10: FBIS-MEA-78-6

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CONTIN

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PALESTINIANS IN BEIRUT MARK MARTYRS DAY

JN071750Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 7 Jan 78 JN

[Text] The Palestinian and Arab masses today are celebrating the anniversary of martyrs day. At 1000 today several rallies were held, of which the main one was the mammoth popular march early in the morning at the martyrs cemetery in Beirut. Abu 'Ammar came to the cemetery and inspected the guard of honor while taps was played. The brother leader then unveiled a monument of the martyrs of Tall az-Za'tar amidst the cheers of the Palestinian and Lebanese masses, who renewed their pledges and repeated the oath to maintain their course until victory. Abu 'Ammar then delivered a speech to the masses of this occasion.

Meanwhile, a rally was held at Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir Hall at the Arab University of Beirut, during which sister Umm Jihad talked on behalf of the institution of the Palestinian revolution's martyrs and wounded. Abu Iyad delivered the Palestinian revolution's speech, which will be broadcast tomorrow. In southern Lebanon a popular festival will be held on this occasion today, during which medals will be given to the martyrs' families. The Is'ad at-Tufulah school in Suq al-Gharb organized a march last night on the occasion of martyrs day during which 400 martyrs' children took part and walked 15 km carrying torches.

Abu Iyad Speech at Rally

JN082050Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 8 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpts] On the occasion of martyr's day yesterday, brother Abu Iyad delivered a speech in Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir Hall at the Arab University of Beirut. [begin recording]

Brother Abu 'Ammar, sisters and brothers: On martyrs day we must remember and learn. We must remember this great convoy [of martyrs] and the blood which was (?shed) for us all. The bullet which hit the martyr Sa'id Hamami was directed against us all. He fell while defending this revolution and this people. On behalf of all of you, I say to these rancorous cliques that want to silence the principle of democratic choice that this is a dangerous road. We can never allow any one of these rancorous cliques to attack anybody in Fatah. Once the truth is discovered, the Fatah movement will not let the blood of any martyr be wasted.

This revolution may be small in number and (?equipment), but it is great with this Arab nation standing at its side. The people of Egypt are with us before they are with As-Sadat. The people and army of Egypt are with us before they are with anybody else. I know of some Egyptian men and women who weep when the word Palestine is mentioned. Our people are greater than all conspirators. If the United States [words indistinct] like Carter, who changes his mind every second, our people never change their minds. Our Arab nation never changes its mind.

To those who speak and bargain and everyday come out with a statement that the PLO exists, or does not exist, that the PLO represents, or does not represent--to those I say on behalf of all my brothers that the PLO [words indistinct] in their eyes and their hearts. Let them die in their spite because our people recognize only the PLO as the sole representative of our people.

If Carter and his ilk try [words indistinct] and if the shah of Iran sees that the destiny of the West Bank and Gaza Strip must be attached to Jordan, if this leader or that changes his mind everyday, we tell them in the name of those martyrs who fell that we are not ready for bargaining. The land of Palestine belongs to the Palestinian people, and every inch evacuated by the occupation is for the PLO and not for King Husayn or anyone else.

Our people have chosen their way. This way is hard and long. We ask the world: Have we been against peace? Has the PLO been against peace? Since the first bullet [words indistinct] Palestinians, we raised the slogan of the democratic state [words indistinct] but they have rejected this slogan. We have (?demanded) part of our lands to set up the Palestinian state, but they have rejected this too. Who, then are the enemies of peace?

Yet it seems that the big ones want to destroy peace with their own hands. We tell them that there can be no peace without the Palestinians and no peace without the Palestinian people. Let them try their luck. As they concoct plots in the kitchen of plots, we tell them that our Palestinian people will defend this revolution and the blood of those revolutionaries with all they possess. Our people will not relinquish their revolution.

We would like to ask those people here in Lebanon who say we want to settle in Lebanon: Why did they fight against us for 2 whole years? Did we fight to stay on Lebanese soil? We fought because we wanted to keep our guns for the restoration of Palestine. We say we are against the settlement. We really are against settlement and love our country.

Yesterday--and I address this to the great people of Egypt--Begin said that he wants to spend his life in a settlement in Sinai. Let the Egyptian people hear this. The Zionist enemy wants the whole of Sinai [words indistinct]. The people of Israel and the Zionists ruling them want nothing less than the occupation of the whole land, the whole homeland and the whole of this nation.

'ARAFAT SPEAKS AT FUNERAL OF PLO REPRESENTATIVE

JN0815400Y [Editorial Report JN] Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World at 1415 GMT on 8 January broadcast a poorly heard report on the funeral of the PLO London representative Sa'id Hamami. The announcer reported that Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi and other PLO Executive Committee members participated in the funeral procession, which proceeded through the streets of Beirut. A 6-minute recording of 'Arafat's speech at the funeral was also carried. In it he praised the life and acts of Hamami and described him as a true revolutionary who suffered greatly for the sake of his country. 'Arafat then said: "My comrade in the march, they have assassinated you. They were in fact trying to assassinate the Palestinian will and the Palestinian decision."

'Arafat concluded as follows: "I say--and let all hear me, let Begin hear me and let Carter hear me and let all those who are going to meet tomorrow in Aswan or elsewhere--I say to all of them that the decision is Palestinian and that the Palestinian will will not die with Sa'id Hamami and that the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian will leads to Palestine. We are rebelling and will continue until we reach Palestine, which is our future, and until we reach victory and achieve free and Arab Palestine. It is a revolution until victory."

Abu Iyad Names Abu Nidal

LD0911101Y London GUARDIAN in English 9 Jan 78 p 6 LD

[Article from our own correspondent in Beirut]

[Text] The PLO leadership has all but formally accused Abu Nidal, the Fatah renegade, now living in Baghdad, of masterminding the assassination of Sa'id Hamami. It has carefully refrained from implicating the Iraq Ba'thist regime which harbours him.

Addressing a Beirut rally at the weekend, the Fatah second-in-command, Mr Abu Iyad, said: "I tell this vicious clique, which wants to shatter with bullets the democratic dialogue which we opened up, that Fatah is greater than a dwarf called Abu Nidal."

It is highly improbable that Abu Iyad, who was speaking in the presence of Mr Yasir 'Arafat, would make a charge like that unless the leadership was convinced of its authenticity, for the whole affair is a great embarrassment. This is not so much because it might give the impression of a resistance movement on the brink of grave internecine strife. Abu Nidal was not a representative of mainstream Palestinian "rejectionism." George Habash's Popular Front, which had taken Mr Hamami to task in the past, was among the first to send condolences. "Accepters" and "rejectionists" were formally reconciled.

The embarrassment lies in how to handle the Iraqis. After he started his bid to mediate between the rival Syrian and Iraqi regimes, Mr 'Arafat evidently received formal assurances that Abu Nidal would be "neutralised." The question arises, therefore, whether Abu Nidal was acting on his own--with just vengeance and his own extremist ideology for a motive--or whether the Iraqis deliberately put him up to it to ensure that their mediation succeeds.

The PLO is giving no support at all to the second thesis. Indeed, it can have been no accident that Abu Iyad pointed to two possible culprits--Mr Abu Sa'id as well as Abu Nidal--though his audience can have been in no doubt which he considered to be the real one.

This was an effort at impartiality which the Syrian regime--now formally allied with the PLO--doubtless understands, but cannot appreciate very much, because Abu Sa'id is notorious in Palestinian quarters as a Syrian intelligence agent whose last exploit was the hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner.

If the Iraqis were behind the Hamami killing, it seems to mean that they are ready to resort to every imaginable expedient to steer clear of the Tripoli alliance.

'ARAFAT REJECTS RESETTLEMENT OF PALESTINIANS

NC0809502Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0836 GMT 8 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 8 January--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has called for a clear and complete Arab stand rejecting the plot to resettle the Palestinians in the Arab states in which they are living. He said that such a resettlement constitutes a serious plot against the Palestinian cause and the future of the Palestinian people. In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB published today, Yasir 'Arafat warned the Arab nation of the dangers of the implementation of this plot. He said that the plot of detaching the Palestinians from their land represents challenges to the human will and the will of the Palestinian people.

He asserted that years and plots cannot possibly make the Palestinian people forget their right to their homeland or to return to their land. He also emphasized that the Palestinian people will not accept anything except their land and the establishment of their national sovereignty over it. 'Arafat said that the Arab nation and its leaders must assume their full responsibility and frustrate the plot to resettle the Palestinians in Lebanon and Jordan because this plan constitutes circumvention of the Palestinian right and the most serious plot against the Palestinian people and cause.

'ARAFAT MEETS WITH U.S. CONGRESSMEN FOR 7 HOURS

JN061655Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1400 GMT 6 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Brother 'Abu Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the forces of the Palestinian revolution, yesterday afternoon met with a delegation of the U.S. House International Relations Committee. The meeting, which lasted approximately 7 hours, was attended by Brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, and brother Basil 'Aqil, PLO representative to the United Nations.

The meeting dealt with an explanation of the Palestinian position, current Middle East events after the As-Sadat visit to the occupied territory, as well as the aims of the Palestinian revolution toward achieving the Palestinian people's rights--their right to return, their right to self-determination and their right to the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

Findley Quoted on 'Arafat Proposals

NC081122Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0848 GMT 8 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 8 January--U.S. Congressman Paul Findley has stated that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has made proposals for the stationing of peace forces [quwwat li as-salam] in the West Bank of Jordan and Gaza to be made up of troops from the five big powers which are members of the Security Council and which enjoy the right of veto, provided the presence of these forces in those areas is for a limited period.

In a statement to the Egyptian newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, the U.S. congressman, who is now visiting Egypt within the U.S. House International Relations Committee delegation, said that they observed during their meeting in Damascus with Yasir 'Arafat that he was moderate in his stand and that he had praised President Anwar as-Sadat and had spoken about him in a good spirit. Findley added that Yasir 'Arafat told the delegation that he had sensed a spirit of moderation in the attitude President Carter had announced in Aswan in connection with the Palestinians' right to determine their own future.

The U.S. congressman said that the Syrians had reaffirmed their stand--that they are unhappy with President as-Sadat's initiative and that the Palestinian problem is the key to solving the Middle East crisis. They said that the Syrian side had expressed a friendly attitude toward the United States and demanded that the United States give its complete support to the peace process in the area.

PAPER SAYS IRAQ DECIDES TO MAKE PEACE WITH SYRIA

NC0709l0Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0830 GMT 7 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 7 January--Quoting informed diplomatic sources, the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH reports that last Wednesday the Iraqi leadership adopted a decision to reconcile with the Syrian leadership. This came as a result of the efforts exerted by a number of Arab statesmen, the latest of which were the efforts made by Algerian President Houari Boumediene during his recent visit to Baghdad in the course of his current tour.

The paper says that Arab political circles believe that Salah ad-Din al-Bitar will head a new Syrian cabinet that will work to improve and strengthen relations between Damascus and Baghdad. What confirms this possibility, according to the paper, is Al-Bitar's return to Damascus a few days ago after having stayed outside Syria since 1966. Quoting reliable sources, the paper says that units of the Iraqi Army are expected to enter Syrian territory after the resolution in principle of the crisis, which has been delaying the implementation of this request, which Syria has made to Iraq more than once.

The paper says it has learned that a summit conference of the rejectionist states will be held in Algiers during the last week of January. The conference will be attended by Syria, Iraq, Algeria, Libya, the PDRY and the PLO. Saddam Husayn, the deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council, will represent Iraq at this conference. The paper points out that the decision to hold the conference came as a result of contacts by President Boumediene, Libyan Foreign Secretary 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki and PFLP leader Dr George Habash.

Soviet Mediation Reported

LD061802Y London AL-MANAR in Arabic 7 Jan 78 pp 1, 2 LD

[Excerpt] Beirut, Nihad al-Mashnuq--Well-informed diplomatic sources in Beirut say that the Soviet Union will not allow President as-Sadat's plan for a settlement in the Middle East to proceed and that Moscow will accept nothing short of returning to the Soviet-U.S. joint statement as a basis for a settlement. For this reason, the Soviet Union, for the first time since it asserted its presence in the area, seems to be acting rapidly.

After insuring air cover for Syria, the sources said, Moscow has gone on to mediate with Iraq with a view to making it participate in the front of steadfastness whose principles were agreed upon in Libya. The sources add that, during the visit of President al-Bakr's envoy Tariq 'Aziz to Moscow, the Soviet Union proposed the concentration of additional Soviet forces on the Soviet-Iranian borders in return for sending Iraqi forces to Syria so that Syria can adopt a position of refusing Resolutions 242 and 338.

With regard to the Kurds, the Syrian Government has suspended the activities of those Kurds belonging to the Jalal at-Talabani faction. This took place with the approval of At-Talabani himself and following the mediation by the Palestinian resistance during one of At-Talabani's visits to Beirut and his meeting with the resistance leaders. Abu Iyad played a leading role in the mediation.

Cuban leader Fidel Castro paid a secret visit to Algeria last week in order to discuss the aid that can be given to Algeria in its dispute with Libya over the Western Desert as well as the aid that can possibly be given to the POLISARIO. The Soviet chief of staff earlier visited Libya and Algeria for the same purpose.

So far there has not been any fundamental change in Iraq's stand despite the invitation sent to the leaders of Libya to attend a summit meeting in Baghdad in mid-January.

With regard to the Iraqi-Syrian dialog, well-informed sources said that during the course of the dialog Iraq asked Damascus for its views regarding Syria's role in case of a serious Israeli threat of an attack on southern Lebanon should Baghdad join the front of steadfastness. It is believed that raising such questions does not contribute to Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement but Yasir 'Arafat last week returned from Baghdad optimistic. He told those close to him that there remain only simple issues to be resolved and that he will try to resolve them with President al-Asad.

CARTER SAID TO REJECT MEETING WITH PALESTINIANS

JN080913Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Jan 78 pp 1, 13 JN

[Text] Cairo, AD-DUSTUR Office--A well-informed diplomatic source has stated that President Jimmy Carter turned down a suggestion to hold a separate meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and a senior moderate PLO member to discuss developments in the Palestinian issue.

In revealing details of this suggestion, the source said that prior to President Carter's arrival in Saudi Arabia, Cairo and Riyadh asked the U.S. President to convene a separate meeting--to be held in Riyadh far from the eyes of journalists--between Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Brzezinski, President Carter's national security adviser, and a moderate PLO leader to discuss all aspects of the Palestinian issue and the issue of Palestinian representation in the peace efforts. It has been learned that Khalid al-Hasan and Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, members of the Fatah Central Committee, were chosen as candidates. It has also been learned that this choice was approved by Yasir 'Arafat and that the Kuwaiti Government expressed its readiness to send a private plane to carry Khalid al-Hasan and Abu Mazin secretly from Kuwait to Riyadh to meet with the U.S. officials. Well-informed sources said that the Arab capitals made this suggestion to overcome the problem of Palestinian representation at the peace talks.

These sources added that President Carter rejected the suggestion and said that Yasir 'Arafat, in his capacity as chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, should first issue a statement announcing the PLO's official acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 242, its recognition of Israel and its acceptance of secure and stable borders for Israel. The Palestinian recognition should also include a statement affirming the abandonment of the formula of armed struggle for the liberation of Palestine. When such a statement is made, the United States will be ready to begin an open dialog with the PLO.

The same informed sources said Khalid al-Hasan and Abu Mazin turned down the U.S. suggestion and stressed that they are ready to begin a dialog with the United States without preconditions.

The well-informed sources concluded their statement by saying that the tough U.S. stand regarding the PLO was reflected in the results of the Saudi-U.S. talks. This also explains the statement made by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, that there is a clear difference in viewpoints between Riyadh and Washington regarding the Palestinian issue and the right to self-determination.

ALGERIAN PRESIDENT CONTINUES VISIT TO ARABIAN PENINSULA

Departure From Saudi Arabia

LD061232Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Jan 78 LD

[Summary] Algerian President Houari Boumediene and the accompanying delegation left Riyadh this morning for Manama at the end of his 2-day private visit to King Khalid. President Boumediene was seen off at the airport by King Khalid, Crown Prince Fahd and others.

Arrival in Bahrain

NC061241Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1205 GMT 6 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Manama, 6 January--Official talks between Bahrain and Algeria headed by Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al-Khalifah and Algerian President Houari Boumediene began at noon today. The talks between the two sides dealt with bilateral relations between the two countries and the means to consolidate and develop them as well as with current Arab issues. President Boumediene arrived in Manama from Riyadh earlier today on a brief visit to Bahrain as part of his current tour of a number of states in the area.

Arrival in UAE

LD061747Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpt] President Boumediene arrived this evening in Abu Dhabi for talks with Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyen, president of the State of United Arab Emirates.

Talks With UAE President

LD070025Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 6 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpt] Official talks began tonight in Abu Dhabi between Brother Houari Boumediene, president of the republic and chairman of the Revolution Council, and Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, in the presence of the members of the two countries' delegations. The Algerian delegation includes Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz Bouteflika, member of the Revolution Council and foreign minister; Ahmed Draia, member of the Revolution Council and transport minister; Dr Ahmad Talib Ibrahimi, minister-adviser to the president of the republic; [remainder of names indistinct].

Resumption of Talks

NC070858Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0816 GMT 7 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 7 January--Official talks between UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and Algerian President Houari Boumediene were resumed this morning in a special session confined to the two presidents.

During the session, the two leaders completed discussion of the subjects which were discussed during the enlarged 3-hour meeting held between the two sides yesterday evening at which the current Arab situation and the Middle East issue were reviewed and the strengthening of bilateral relations between the UAE and Algeria was discussed.

This morning's special session between Shaykh Zayid and President Boumediene was preceded by a meeting between UAE Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi and Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

UAE Foreign Minister Comments

JN071922Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1855 GMT 7 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 January--UAE Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi has stated that UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan and Algerian President Houari Boumediene agreed during their talks on the necessity of Arab contacts, under the present circumstances in the Arab nation, for the sake of exchanging views and conducting consultations in the interest of the Arab peoples. He said that the two Arab leaders also reviewed the Arab situation in the light of the current developments.

Departure From Abu Dhabi

NC071337Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1310 GMT 7 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 7 January--Algerian President Houari Boumediene left Abu Dhabi for Aden this afternoon after a 1-day visit as part of a tour of a number of Arab countries.

Arrival in PDRY

LD071937Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Algerian President Houari Boumediene, arrived in Aden at 1815 this evening on an official visit to the PDRY. He was received at the airport by 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Unified Political Organization of the National Front; Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, chairman of the Presidential Council; and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, prime minister; among others.

The Algerian president was accorded an official and warm reception. After the reception ceremony at the airport, President Boumediene and 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad entered a car and left for the presidential house in an official motorcade. President Boumediene is being accompanied by a high-level delegation which includes Abdelaziz Bouteflika, minister of foreign affairs, and a number of officials in the Algerian Government.

Talks in PDRY 'Successful'

LD081942Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Summary] President Boumediene of Algeria left Aden today after his visit to the PDRY. He was seen off at the airport by 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the National Front; Chairman Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali; and Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

"In a press statement before leaving Aden International Airport brother President Houari Boumediene said his talks with the brother (?officials) in Democratic Yemen were successful and that the two sides concurred in their views. [Word indistinct] relations between the Yemeni and Algerian revolutions he said: We are working to expand bilateral relations in all fields between the two countries, peoples and revolutions."

The Yemeni-Algerian talks ended this morning. Taking part in the second and final session of the talks from the Yemeni side were National Front Secretary General 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, Chairman Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, Foreign Minister Muhammad as-Salih Muti', Central Committee member 'Ali Salim Lawar, Communications Minister Mahmud 'Abd Allah 'Ushaysh, Trade Minister Mahmud Sa'id Madhi, and Al-Khidr Salih al-Hamzah, minister plenipotentiary at the Foreign Ministry.

The Algerian side comprised President Houari Boumediene; Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika; Transport Minister Ahmed Draia; Dr Talib Ahmad Ibrahim, minister counsellor to the president; and Finance Minister Mohamed Seddik ben Yahia.

"This session continued discussions on the subjects touched on in the first session of talks, which took place yesterday evening. It also reviewed relations between the two countries."

Arrival in YAR

JN081740Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpts] At 1630 today, Algerian President Houari Boumediene arrived in San'a' at the head of a large Algerian delegation for an official visit to the YAR at the invitation of brother Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the Command Council and commander in chief of the armed forces. The illustrious guest was accorded a grand official and popular welcome. Brother Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the Command Council and commander in chief of the armed forces headed those who welcomed the guest.

Talks With Al-Ghashmi

JN081742Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jan 78 JN

[Text] At 1900 today, Algerian President Houari Boumediene called on his brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the Command Council and commander in chief of the armed forces, at his office at the Republican Palace. During the visit, the two cordially expressed the depth of the strong fraternal relations between the two Arab leaders, which will achieve Arab solidarity during this stage through which the Arab nation is passing.

Al-Ghashmi Holds Banquet

JN082023Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Jan 78 JN

[Text] At 2000 today, Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the Command Council and commander in chief of the armed forces, held a banquet in honor of Algerian President Houari Boumediene and the accompanying delegation. A number of high-ranking officials and ministers, members of the diplomatic corps in San'a', and a number of officers of the armed forces and security forces attended the banquet.

Meeting With Al-Asnaj

JN091755Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jan 78 JN

[Text] The radio and television correspondent has learned that a meeting was held this morning between Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj and Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika. During the meeting, the talks which were held yesterday evening were finalized. Agreement was reached to intensify contacts between the Algerian and Yemeni governments within the context of wider Arab contacts.

The correspondent has also learned that the YAR foreign minister is expected to visit Qatar, Bahrain, and Egypt during the coming days.

Departure Statement

JN091746Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpts] At 0900 this morning, Algerian President Houari Boumediene left San'a' at the end of a 2-day official visit to the YAR. The president was accorded a big official sendoff.

In a statement to the SABA NEWS AGENCY before leaving San'a' International Airport, Algerian President Houari Boumediene expressed admiration for the development achieved by the YAR in various domains. Referring to his visit to the YAR, Boumediene said: I visited Yemen in 1963. Thus I saw a great difference and this makes us say that Yemen is doing fine.

President Boumediene added: My meetings with brother Chairman Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghasmi and the high-ranking officials were fruitful. Concluding, the president greeted the Yemeni people, expressing the hope that he will again visit Yemen for a longer period.

Official talks were held yesterday at 2200 between the Algerian and Yemeni sides headed by the two leaders, Algerian President Houari Boumediene and YAR Chairman of the Command Council and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi. The talks were held at the Republican Palace and continued for 3 and 1/2 hours. At the end of the talks, Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj told the radio and television correspondent: The Yemeni-Algerian consultations were beneficial and extremely important. The two sides agreed on the importance of working to restore the spirit of Arab solidarity and its effectiveness in order to defend Arab rights and regain the occupied Arab territories, and to support the PLO within the context of the Rabat and Algiers summit conference resolutions.

Al-Asnaj added: Brother President Boumediene's response in accepting the invitation of brother Chairman al-Ghashmi to visit the YAR has provided an opportunity to exchange clear views concerning fateful Arab issues and the development of bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries. This visit will bear the desired fruits for strengthening the Arab ranks and for restoring them to normal.

Arrival in Qatar

NC091041Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0947 GMT 9 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Doha, 9 January--Algerian President Houari Boumediene arrived in Doha at noon today from San'a' on a visit to Qatar in the course of his current tour of the states in the area. His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, received President Boumediene upon his arrival at Doha International Airport.

Report on Talks

NC091506Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1353 GMT 9 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 9 January--An official source has told QNA after the conclusion of the talks between Qatari ruler Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani and Algerian President Houari Boumediene that the discussions between the two leaders centered on the current Arab issue and its effects on the Arab and international levels.

The two leaders emphasized the need to consolidate the unity of the Arab ranks and mobilize Arab efforts to confront the delicate phase through which the Arab nation is passing.

They also renewed their support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Qatar and Algeria adopt this stand through their adherence to the Algiers and Rabat summit conferences resolutions.

The source said that the Qatari ruler and the Algerian president have emphasized the importance of direct meetings and the exchange of views and consultations because they are very beneficial to the Arab nation and its fraternal peoples. The source said that President Boumediene acquainted Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani with the results of his tour of the Arab capitals he had visited. The source concluded his statement by saying that the two leaders have stressed the need for the development of relations between the two countries in various fields. He said that a spirit of sincere fraternity and complete frankness prevailed during the talks.

Departure From Doha

NC091446Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1356 GMT 9 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Doha, 9 January--Algerian President Houari Boumediene left Doha for Kuwait at about 1600 today after a visit of several hours to Qatar as part of his current tour of a number of Arab states.

Arrival in Kuwait

LD091830Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] At about 1630 today, His Excellency President Houari Boumediene, president of the Algerian Democratic and Popular Republic, arrived at Kuwait International Airport on a visit to the country to pay condolences on behalf of fraternal Algeria on the death of our late amir, Shaykh Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah.

His highness the exalted amir of the country, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, headed those who came to the airport to welcome him. They included the foreign minister, the minister of state for cabinet affairs, the head of the Amiri court, the governor of Hawalli, the under secretary to the Amiri court and a number of senior officials of the Amiri court and the Foreign Ministry.

At 1730 today at the As-Salam Palace, talks were held between his highness the amir of the country and President Boumediene. Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah and Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Revolution Council and Algerian foreign minister, took part.

The radio and television correspondent has learned that the talks between the two Arab leaders dealt with bilateral relations between Kuwait and Algeria and ways of developing them in all fields. They discussed current Arab developments, and the talks took place in a cordial atmosphere dominated by a spirit of fraternity and understanding.

Talks With Amir

LD100027Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 9 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpt] Last night at As-Salam Palace in Kuwait, President Boumediene, president of the republic and chairman of the Council of the Revolution, conducted his first political talks in private with the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah. The talks were attended by the foreign ministers of the two countries.

According to an informed source, the talks dealt with the results of the Arab conference of steadfastness held in Tripoli last December following the capitulationist step of As-Sadat when he visited occupied Palestine. Any Egyptian-Zionist agreement was condemned, since it would be based on the obliteration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The source said that during the talks the current Arab situation was analyzed in the light of As-Sadat's visit.

The Algerian and Kuwaiti sides showed interest in bilateral relations. The source added that the amir of Kuwait has affirmed the role of Arab solidarity in establishing peace in the region and his country's adherence to the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences which consider the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Departure From Kuwait

LD101140Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Jan 78 LD

[Summary] Algerian President Houari Boumediene and his accompanying delegation left Kuwait at about 0700 this morning. The amir and the Kuwaiti foreign minister saw President Boumediene off at Kuwait Airport.

BAHRAIN

PRIME MINISTER AL KHALIFAH LEAVES FOR EUROPE

NC071113Y Doha Qna in Arabic 1054 GMT 7 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Manama, 7 January--Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah left Manama for Euorpe on a private visit of several days. Bahraini ruler Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah has issued a decree appointing heir apparent Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah as acting prime minister until Prime Minister Shaykh Al Khalifah returns from abroad.

KUWAIT

UGANDA PRESIDENT AMIN PAYS CONDOLENCE VISIT

LD071202Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Jan 78 LD

[Summary] At noon today President Idi Amin of Uganda arrived at Kuwait International Airport at the head of a delegation to offer condolences on the occasion of the death of the late amir. Shaykh Jabir al-Asmad as-Sabah was at the airport to welcome the president.

Departs 8 Jan

NC081156Y Paris AFP in English 1122 GMT 8 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 8 (AFP)--Ugandan President Idi Amin left here today for Kampala after a 24-hour visit. During his stay Field Marshal Amin met Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, the new amir of Kuwait, and presented his condolences on the death of the late amir, Shaykh Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah.

SAUDI ARABIA

SHAH ARRIVES IN RIYADH, BEGINS TALKS WITH KING

LD101045Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 10 Jan 78 LD

[Text] The shah arrived in Riyadh at 1200 Teheran time today for talks with King Khalid of Saudi Arabia.

He was welcomed at the airport by the king, the crown prince and first deputy prime minister, cabinet ministers and senior Saudi officials. Following their arrival at An-Nasiriyah Palace, the shah and King Khalid began their talks at 1230 Teheran time.

Report on Talks

LD1013l5Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Jan 78 LD

[Text] At 1245 today, talks ended between the Saudi and Iranian sides headed by King Khalid and the shah. The talks dealt with bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries, the situation in the Middle East and the gulf area.

The talks between King Khalid and the shah began at 1130 today at the guest palace at An-Nasiriyyah. They were attended on the Saudi side by Prince Fahd, crown prince and deputy prime minister; Prince Sultan, minister of defense and aviation; Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; the king's private adviser, Dr Rashad Fir'awn; and Saudi Ambassador to Iran Shaykh Ibrahim Bakr. On the Iranian side, they were attended by the delegation which is accompanying the shah, and Iran's ambassador to Saudi Arabia Jafar Raed.

Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal told the SAUDI NEWS AGENCY and the Iranian television correspondent after the talks that the talks were characterized by the usual spirit of genuine Islamic fraternity. He said that this is the traditional way that discussions between the two countries are held.

He added that the talks come at a very crucial time for the Middle East, which is an important part of the world. They included a comprehensive appraisal of the situation and the viewpoints of the two countries are identical.

The foreign minister said that the discussion dealt with the oil policy of the two countries and the viewpoints were identical in this connection. The discussion also dealt with the situation in the Horn of Africa. His highness said that the shah told King Khalid of his talks in Aswan with Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat.

The foreign minister said that bilateral Saudi-Iranian relations do not require elaboration. They are historical and everlasting at the same time.

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION ARRIVES IN RIYADH

ND091558Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 9 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 9 January--A U.S. congressional delegation headed by Clement Zablocki, chairman of the House International Relations Committee, arrived in Riyadh at 1400 today on a 3-day visit to the kingdom.

FORMER UK PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES IN RIYADH

NC091813Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 9 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 9 January--Former British Prime Minister Edward Heath arrived in Riyadh this afternoon as part of his current tour of the area. He was welcomed at the airport by Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, the British ambassador to the kingdom and a representative of the royal protocol.

JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA TO ARRIVE 17 JAN

LD092004Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Jan 78 LD

[Summary] Japanese Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda is due in Riyadh on 17 January for a 3-day official visit to Saudi Arabia at the invitation of Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. "Mr Sonoda will have talks with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal on the development of events in the Middle East, relations between the two countries and international problems of common interest to the two countries."

PRINCE FAHD RECEIVES OMANI MINISTER OF STATE

LD091937Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Jan 78 LD

[Summary] Prince Fahd, crown prince and deputy prime minister, this afternoon received Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Qais Zawawi. Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal was present. SNA has learned that during the audience, Qais Zawawi, conveyed a message from Sultan Qabus of Oman to King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Prince Fahd.

The Omani foreign minister has already left Riyadh for home after a visit of a few hours to Saudi Arabia.

YEMEN--YAR

PRIME MINISTER AL-GHANI RETURNS FROM KUWAIT

JN011841Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, Command Council member and prime minister, and the delegation accompanying him returned to San'a' at 1800 today at the end of a visit to the fraternal state of Kuwait during which condolences were offered to his highness the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, regarding the death of Shaykh Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah. The condolences were offered on behalf of the YAR leadership, government and people.

The Command Council member and prime minister was received at San'a' Airport by the deputy prime minister, ministers and several senior officials.

FOREIGN MINISTER SENDS CONDOLENCES TO KUWAIT

JN011842Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Brother Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj has sent a cable of condolence to His Highness Shaykh Sabah al-Hamad al-Jabir as-Sabah, Kuwaiti foreign minister, on the death of Shaykh Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah, the late amir of Kuwait.

MINISTER REPORTS TO AL-GHASHMI ETHIOPIA VISIT

JN031808Y San'a Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, Command Council chairman and commander in chief of the armed forces, this morning received the minister of state, who is the chairman's personal envoy. The minister submitted a report on his visit to Ethiopia and conveyed the greetings of President Mengistu Haile Mariam, head of the Provisional Socialist Military Government of Ethiopia.

AL-GHASHMI RECEIVES ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR 3 JAN

JN031809Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, Command Council member and prime minister, today received his excellency the ambassador of the Provisional Socialist Military Government of Ethiopia in San'a'. The meeting dealt with the relations between the two countries.

SOMALI MINISTER ARRIVES IN SAN'A', MAKES STATEMENT

NC3018?2Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1727 GMT 30 Dec 77 NC

[Text] San'a', 30 December--Abdallah Mohamed Fadil, Somali minister of ports and sea transport, arrived in San'a' today on a visit of about 3 days during which he will convey a message from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre to Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the Command Council and commander in chief of the YAR armed forces.

The Somali minister will also have talks on the Somali-Ethiopian conflict. Later he will go to Saudi Arabia on a similar visit.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent in San'a', the Somali minister said his mission in San'a' was at the request of Somali President Siad Barre for consultations and exchanging views on current events in East Africa, particularly the war between Somalia and Ethiopia, the Horn of Africa in general, and the dangers threatening the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean area because of foreign interference. He said these events not only threaten Somalia but also the Arab states, particularly those on the Red Sea and the gulf.

The Somali minister called upon the Arab states to assume their responsibility regarding these events.

The Somali minister accused the Soviet Union of planning to increase its influence in these areas. He said Ethiopia was facing domestic problems and the struggle by the Eritrean Liberation Front and western Somalia and that Ethiopia wants to turn these problems into a war with Somalia in accordance with plans from the Soviet Union and the states in its orbit.

He said that the Soviet Union is inciting Ethiopia to occupy Somali territory, particularly in Berbera and Zeila on the Red Sea. He said Soviets, Cubans and East Germans were fighting this war with heavy arms. He said MIG-21 planes recently raided Hargeisa and Berbera. Six of the raiding planes were shot down. Three children were killed and some 16 to 18 persons were wounded in these raids.

Asked whether there was any mediation to end the conflict, he said Madagascar was currently attempting to mediate but he believes that the Ethiopians cannot at present adopt any decision themselves either for war or peace because it is the Soviets who plan for them.

RADIO: ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE 'EMBARRASSED' CARTER

JN071904Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jan 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The event of last week was U.S. President Jimmy Carter's swift tour, during which he was able to learn the prevailing attitudes in the region.

The thing which perhaps embarrassed the U.S. President during his swift tour of the region was the intransigence shown by Israeli Prime Minister Begin, who insists on refusing to accept the fundamental truth which is the essence and the basis for any comprehensive settlement in the region. This truth is that the Palestinian question and the Palestinians' national and legitimate rights are the cornerstone of any settlement.

In the face of the Arab nation's commitment to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, the U.S. President has failed in his attempt to reconcile Israeli prevarication and Arab insistence on the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The entity suggested by the U.S. President as a substitute for the Palestinian homeland is a diplomatic move aimed at justifying Israeli intransigence on the issue of the Palestinian homeland and also the proposals that would consecrate the Israeli occupation of the West Bank. It also aims at justifying the Israel's attempts to conclude separate settlements in an effort to obliterate the Palestinian question.

ATH-THAWRAH SEES SOLIDARITY AS ANSWER TO BEGIN PROPOSALS

JN301752Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Dec 77 JN

[Excerpts] In today's editorial, ATH-THAWRAH says: When brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi called and fought for Arab solidarity, it was because he was fully aware of the fact that it is the rulers of Tel Aviv who benefit from any Arab dispute and who plot to torpedo Arab solidarity and, in fact, the entire Palestine question. Thus, the brother lieutenant colonel and his brothers in the Command Council and in the government took the initiative to stop any further deterioration in the Arab ranks and to settle any bilateral differences to deprive the enemy of the opportunity to exploit such differences.

Begin's proposals have confirmed these facts. The door is no longer open to peace or war, to Geneva or the United Nations. All roads have been blocked before the Arabs with the exception of one--the road of Arab solidarity, coordination and cooperation. It is the only road which will guarantee protecting Palestine from the dangers of the Zionist attempts to erase it from history, after they have tried several times to obliterate it from the map of the world.

What Israel is asking from the Arabs is not peace but surrender. It is not ready to recognize any legitimate rights for the Palestinian people. Israel is against all the UN resolutions, which have condemned Israel's racist policy in the occupied territory.

If President Carter prefers a Palestinian entity instead of a Palestinian state, he could have expressed this opinion before the OPEC countries froze the oil prices for this year. The Arabs are striving in every field to achieve their legitimate just rights, first of which is the question of the Palestinian people and their right to establish their state on their land.

Therefore, the comprehensive Arab solidarity which our republic is seeking is the right remedy and the decisive answer to Begin's proposals, which are rejected by everyone including the people of the West Bank, because the question of the Palestinian people is the crux of the problem.

EGYPTIAN DELEGATIONS TO POLITICAL, MILITARY COMMITTEES

Political Committee Delegation

NC091534Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 9 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Aswan, 9 January--The Egyptian delegation to the meetings of the political committee, which will begin in Jerusalem on 16 January, will leave Cairo on Sunday. The delegation consists of foreign minister Muhammad Kamil Ibrahim, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Butrus Ghali, leader of the Egyptian delegation to the Cairo preparatory conference Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and a group of experts.

It is known that the political delegation will discuss the principles of the declaration of intentions. The military committee will discuss issues of withdrawal within the framework of the general principles of the comprehensive settlement. The Egyptian-Israeli military committee will begin its meetings on Wednesday.

Military Committee Delegation

NC091536Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Jan 78 NC

[Text] The official military spokesman has stated that the Egyptian-Israeli military committee will meet in Cairo on Wednesday, 11 January. The Egyptian side to the committee is composed of Deputy Prime Minister and War and War Production Minister Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt Gen Muhammad 'Ali Fahmi, Chief of Operaions Maj Gen Hasan al-Juraydi, Military Intelligence Chief Maj Gen Muhammad Husayn Shawkat, National Defense Council Secretary Maj Gen Taha al-Majdub and Director of the Legal Department at the Foreign Ministry Dr Nabil al-'Arabi.

MEMBERS OF ISRAELI MILITARY COMMITTEE DELEGATION ARRIVE

NC092228Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2218 GMT 9 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 January--A number of Israeli military delegation members to the meetings of the military committee which will begin its work in Cairo Wednesday arrived in Cairo tonight. These members are Yesha'yahu Bashan, Avraham Bar-el and Dani'el Rafit.

MENA has learned that there will be two official spokesman, one Egyptian and other Israeli, to announce the results of each day's work of the military committee. Fifty Israeli journalists will cover the work of the committee.

EGYPT TO INSIST ON ISSUING DECLARATION OF INTENT

NC091811Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 9 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Aswan, 9 January--An official source said today that Egypt will insist on issuing a declaration of intent during the meetings of the political committee which will convene in Jerusalem on 16 January.

COMPENSATION TO BE DEMANDED FOR SINAI OILWELLS

NC091817Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1804 GMT 9 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Aswan, 9 January--Prime Minister Mamduh Salim told reporters in Aswan today that the Egupt will demand $2.1 billion from Israel, which is the value of oil from the Sinai oilwells which Israel seized in the 1967 war, in addition to other conpensation.

SHAH OF IRAN ARRIVES IN ASWAN 9 JAN; MET BY AS-SADAT

NC091210 [Editorial report] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1142 GMT on 9 January begins carrying a relay from Aswan Airport where, according to the announcer, President as-Sadat arrived a short while ago to receive the shah. The shah's plane touches down at 1144 GMT. The announcer says that Vice President Mubarak, Prime Minister Salim and other officials are with the president. A gun salute is fired.

According to the announcer, the shah descends from the plane and embraces As-Sadat. The Iranian and Egyptian national anthems are played. The two leaders, the announcer says, review a guard of honor and are given bouquets of flowers by two children. The announcer says the shah shakes hands with those in the receiving line which includes the foreign minister and minister of state for foreign affairs. The shah and the president then go the airport lounge where, the announcer reports, photographs are taken. At 1202 GMT the two leaders get in to the automobile which will take them to Aswan.

Shah's Arrival Statement

NC091334Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1318 GMT 9 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Aswan, 9 January--Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the shah of Iran, made a statement to reporters upon arrival in Aswan today, in which he expressed admiration and appreciation for President Anwar as-Sadat and the Egyptian people. He said: We pray for President as-Sadat to complete what he started for the achievement of peace and stability in the area. The shah added: I will take the opportunity to discuss these matters with President as-Sadat this afternoon.

About Iran's role in relation to the Middle East problem, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi said: We have a deep, direct interest in events in the area. It is our area and its states are our fraternal states in Islam.

Asked about his visit to Saudi Arabia, the shah said: From time to time we meet with our Saudi friends and exchange visits and delegations.

Asked his view about the possibility of Egypt signing a peace agreement including the conditions Egypt is asking, the shah said: Yes, we would like to see Egypt arrive at such an agreement. I believe Egypt is definitely proceeding along a correct course in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Asked whether he carries a peace plan, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi said: I came only for discussions with President as-Sadat.

As-Sadat, Shah Begin Talks

NC091556Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Jan 78 NC

[Text] The talks between President Anwar as-Sadat and the shah of Iran began at 1445 at the (Operoy) Hotel in Aswan. The talks lasted 90 minutes. The radio mission in Aswan has learned that the talks between President as-Sadat and the shah of Iran dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East situation.

Foreign Minister Discusses Visit

NC082027Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat will welcome His Majesty Shahanshah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the shah of Iran, on his arrival in Aswan tomorrow afternoon at a brief visit to Egypt.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has stated that the visit affirms the intensive efforts which President as-Sadat is exerting for a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East. The visit also aims at consolidating the bilateral relations between Egypt and Iran, particularly in the economic field. He said that during President as-Sadat's meeting with the shahanshah viewpoints will be exchanged on current events in the area and that their talks will include the question of peace in the Indian Ocean.

Talks End, Dinner Held

NC092117Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 9 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] The 2-hour second round of talks between President Anwar as-Sadat and the shah of Iran ended at 2130 in Aswan. The president gave a dinner in honor of the shah.

The shah will leave Aswan tomorrow morning for Riyadh to meet with King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Predeparture Press Conference

NC101210Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Jan 78 NC

[Report on 10 January press conference by shah of Iran and Egyptian President as-Sadat at Aswan Airport prior to shah's departure from Egypt]

[Text] The shah of Iran, Emperor Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, has commended President Anwar as-Sadat's stand. His majesty said: I was struck by the clarity of the president's vision in searching for peace. What really struck me is the tremendous enthusiasm and support which President as-Sadat enjoys in his own country. This is an important matter.

During his joint press conference with President Anwar as-Sadat before his departure from Aswan Airport this morning, the shah said that President as-Sadat had briefed his majesty on all aspects of the issue, had clarified the picture for him and had told him of his expectations for the future.

The shah said: I would like to express the profound friendship Iran feels for Egypt and our people's support for President as-Sadat's efforts to bring peace and stability to the Middle East area following many years of instability.

He added: I have told President as-Sadat about the great importance the entire world attaches to his steps. I also told him that his views, which are honorable, sound and compatible with reason and wisdom, will, God willing, succeed because they will result in bringing stability to the area and in tackling other problems which might crop up on the horizon.

Asked whether he is taking a message to the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, the shahanshah said: Most certainly. In reply to another question, his majesty the shahanshah said: In addition to expressing our feelings, we shall clearly explain our evaluation of the situation to all the peoples of the world.

Asked how he views the opportunities for peace after all these efforts, the shah said: I believe the ball is now in the other court. Egypt has opened its hand in a very dignified, manly way.

Asked about the future of Arab Jerusalem, the shah said that that question had passed through many phases in the past, but that obviously he, as a Moslem, would say that the Moslem holy places must be under Moslem control.

Asked about Iran's role in the peace efforts, the shah said: Our role is to speak to anyone who wants to listen. We can speak only in the language of logic. I am happy to see that Egypt is speaking in the language of logic.

President as-Sadat then answered newsmen's questions. In answer to a question his excellency said: I take this opportunity to express my own gratitude and that of my people for this gesture by his majesty the shah--a gesture which clearly explains to the entire world that we are truly working together for peace and for our peoples' prosperity. It has been a very good opportunity to review the measures that are being taken and our vision of future steps.

President as-Sadat said: I am deeply grateful for the support expressed by the emperor, both on the personal level, as a dear friend, and as a leader of a great and civilized nation. He added: We are deeply grateful for his majesty the shah's gesture.

Asked about Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's threat to withdraw his offer on peace in Sinai unless Egypt agrees to the settlements remaining there, As-Sadat said: I am not ready to participate in the battle of statements for one simple fact, and that fact is that peace cannot be achieved by building settlements on the land of others and enforcing them. His excellency said: I do not intend to participate in the battle.

Asked whether Egypt will ask Israel to pay $2.1 billion as compensation for its oil in Sinai, President as-Sadat said: Yes, yes, for the oil which was in the wells which we retrieved after the second disengagement agreement.

Asked whether there is any significance in the fact that the meeting of the military committee is being held before the meeting of the political committee, his excellency said that agreement had been reached in Ismailia that the military committee would meet on 7 or 8 January or around that date; and that the political committee would meet on 15 January because of Dayan's visit to Rome. President as-Sadat said that there is no significance in that.

The shah of Iran left the Arab Republic of Egypt at 0750 today for Saudi Arabia where he will meet with King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz in the framework of the search for a solution to the Middle East question.

The talks between His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and his majesty the shahanshah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, began this morning at the guest palace in An-Nasiriyah. His majesty the shah had arrived in Riyadh and was met at the airport by King Khalid and senior Saudi officials.

Departure Ceremony

NC100630 [Editorial Report NC] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 0552 GMT on 10 January links up with the Voice of the Arabs and other programs to relay the departure of the shah of Iran from Aswan Airport. At 0555 GMT the shah makes a statement in English and then answers reporters' questions. As-Sadat also answers reporters' questions in English.

At 0605 GMT the Iranian and Egyptian national anthems are played. According to the announcer, the two leaders then move to the farewell line and the shah shakes hands with those present. The leaders then review a guard of honor and move toward the plane. A gun salute is fired, and the announcer says the shah shakes hands with the vice president, the prime minister and others. At 0613 GMT the shah enters the plane, which takes off shortly thereafter. The relay ends at 0617 GMT.

CAIRO PRESS: KING HUSAYN INVITED TO VISIT EGYPT

NC070648Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0623 GMT 7 Jan 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, 7 January--The newspapers today point out that Egypt has addressed an official invitation to King Husayn of Jordan to visit the Arab Republic of Egypt and meet with President as-Sadat in Aswan at any time he deems appropriate.

EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE TRADE COMMITTEE TO CONVENE

JN071916Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 7 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 January--The MENA economic editor has learned that the joint Egyptian-Sudanese trade committee will convene after the meetings of the higher ministerial committee, scheduled to take place in Cairo on 16 January under Sudanese Vice President ar-Rashid at-Tahir and Prime Minister Mamduh Salim. This meeting is an implementation of the recommendations of the higher committee in charge of achieving economic integration between the two countries.

During the meeting of the trade committee, a trade protocol will be signed for 1978. According to the protocol, trade exchanged between Egypt and Sudan will be increased by 30 percent over the past year, when it amounted to $56.24 million.

SWEDISH ENERGY MINISTER JOHANSSON VISITS EGYPT 2-8 JAN

Report on Arrival

NC030600Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 3 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Swedish Energy Minister Olof Johansson, heading a delegation, arrived in Cairo last night for a 1-week visit to Egypt. The Swedish minister will hold discussions with Egyptian officials on ways of bolstering joint cooperation between the two countries in the field of electric power.

Protocol Signed

JN071845Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 7 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 January--Egypt and Sweden today signed a protocol for technological and technical cooperation in the domains of electricity and nonconventional energy. The protocol was signed for Egypt by Engineer Ahmad Sultan, deputy prime minister for production and minister of electricity and energy, and for Sweden by Minister of Energy Olof Johansson, who is currently visiting Egypt.

Under the protocol, Sweden will train Egyptian engineers and technicians at nuclear, steam and gas generating stations in Sweden. Sweden will also conduct studies on electric generating projects by means of dams on the Nile River and those to be built in the future.

Sweden will cooperate with Egypt in projects pertaining to the electrification of the Egyptian countryside. The protocol also stipulates that Sweden will finance studies on the extraction of methylene gas from desert plants to be used in starting engines.

Report on Departure

NC081230Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 January--Swedish Energy Minister Olof Johansson and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this afternoon after a 1-week visit to Egypt at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Electricity and Energy Ahmad Sultan.

ECONOMY MINISTER AS-SAYIH ANNOUNCES W. GERMAN CREDIT

NC311717Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1628 GMT 31 Dec 77 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 31 December--Minister of Economy and Economic Cooperation Hamid as-Sayih announced that the credit granted by the Federal Republic of Germany to Egypt has reached DM 1 billion, in addition to some other facilities which will be utilized in establishing a number of factories and electricity stations in Egypt.

In a statement he made today on the occasion of FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's current visit to Egypt and his discussions with President as-Sadat, the minister of economy said that during the discussions agreement was reached on increasing the level of German credit facilities to Egypt. It was also agreed that Germany will grant facilities amounting to DM 310 million to Egypt which will be allocated for investment commodities and which will be repaid on a long-term basis at nominal interest.

Dr as-Sayih noted that during the discussions between President as-Sadat and Chancellor Schmidt it was agreed to increase the amount of credit granted by Germany to Egypt from DM 550 million to DM 750 million. He added that with this, German support for economic development in Egypt will amount to more than DM 1 billion.

AS-SADAT SENDS REPLY CABLE TO W. GERMAN CHANCELLOR

NC071626Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1418 GMT 7 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 7 January--President Anwar as-Sadat has sent a cable of thanks to FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in reply to the cable which Schmidt sent to the president at the end of his visit to Egypt. In his cable Schmidt had expressed his sincere gratitude to the generous hospitality accorded to him by the Egyptian people during his recent visit to Egypt.

President as-Sadat's cable reads: I received with gratitude the kind cable which you sent to us after you and your accompanying delegation left our country following your historic visit. I thank you, dear friend, for the kind sentiments and the sincere wishes which you have expressed to me and to the people of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

On this occasion, I would like to express my conviction that your visit and the constructive and fruitful discussions which took place between us in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding mark a magificant new phase in the excellent relations which link our two peoples and are a successful step for bolstering the ties of cooperation and joint understanding between our two countries in the interest of our friendly people.

I am proud of the personal relations which have begun between us and which will serve international peace and security.

Please accept my sincere greetings. I wish you good health and happiness and continued progress and prosperity to the great German people.

VISITS OF FRENCH, ITALIAN, UK OFFICIALS REPORTED

French National Assembly President

NC291844Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1703 GMT 29 Dec 77 NC

[Text] Cairo, 29 December--President of the French National Assembly Edgar Faure arrived in Cairo this afternoon leading a delegation which includes six of his assistants for a 3-day visit to Egypt within the framework of his current tour of some Arab states. During his visit, Edgar Faure will meet with senior Egyptian officials. He was welcomed at the airport by People's Assembly Deputy Speaker Dr Jamal al-'Utayfai, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and some assembly members.

Italian Senate President

NC060837Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 6 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Amintore Fanfani, president of the Italian Senate and leader of the Christian Democratic Party, arrived in Cairo last night at the head of a delegation for a 5-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of People's Assembly Speaker Engineer Sayyid Mar'i.

Former UK Leader Heath

NC051550Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1418 GMT 5 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 5 January--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Butrus Chali today met with Edward Heath, former British prime minister and member of the British Parliament.

During the meeting a discussion was held on the latest developments in the Middle East issue, the efforts now being exerted for an overall and just settlement in light of President Anwar as-Sadat's initiative, and the important meetings which followed this initiative with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin and during U.S. President Carter's visit to Egypt.

Heath arrived in Cairo on 28 December for a visit to Egypt at the invitation of Minister of Culture and Information 'Abd al-Mun'im as-Sawi.

RADIO REPORTS 2 JAN PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SESSION

Al-Qaysuni Statement

NC021221Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpts] Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the economic group Dr 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Qaysuni made a statement at the People's Assembly today, at the conclusion of the assembly's debate on the government policy statement and the economic and social development plan for 1978.

Dr al-Qaysuni affirmed that the government will contribute to the strengthening of the private sector and will give it an opportunity to be profitable as long as the private sector serves the state's general interests.

He said that the investments called for in the plan and budget, even if they appear to be small, are expected to be four times higher than in 1977. He pointed out that about $100 million of foreign loans have been earmarked for the private sector.

The 1978 plan allocates 2.1 billion pounds to the public sector in order to complete all projects which have been started and to replace and renew the equipment and machinery used in the public sector. Dr al-Qaysuni further said that the Egyptian economy's basic industries will remain a part of the public sector.

Prime Minister's Statement

NC0215412 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Jan 78 NC

[Text] At its meeting today under Speaker Engineer Sayyid Mar'i the People's Assembly approved the government's program and the economic, social, political, and financial development plan of the general state budget for 1978.

At the conclusion of the debate on the government plan, Prime Minister Mamduh Salim delivered a statement in which he thanked the assembly on behalf of the government and the party of Egypt for the contents of the report of the committee responsible for replying to the government statement. He declared that the government has adopted a new procedure of reporting on what has been achieved in the past year, the plan for 1978, and the coming 5-year plan to confirm to the People's Assembly and the masses the popular trust which the government shoulders. He expressed the government's appreciation for the report of the committee responsible for replying to the government statement in which it expressed admiration for President as-Sadat's peace initiative and its results and praised the effective efforts for the establishment of peace based on justic made at the Cairo and Isamilia conferences.

The session adjourned at 1630 today. The assembly will resume its sessions on the evening of 21 January.

GHALI, 'ABD AL-MAJID ADDRESS PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

NC0314012 Cario Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today addressed a joint meeting of the People's Assembly Arab and foreign relations committees. He said: The new Egyptian diplomacy after President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem concentrates on dealing directly with the core of the Arab cause without being tied down by the complications of procedure. President as-Sadat's initiative has weakened the domination of the Zionist pressuring groups over the U.S. Congress, which is now supporting the Egyptian diplomacy to a large extent. This has led to the holding of the Cairo preparatory conference.

Dr Ghali added: The Egyptian diplomatic move has also been characterized by several contacts on various levels, including bilateral contacts such as the meeting between Israeli Defense Minister Weizman and Deputy Prime Minister and War Minister Gen 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, the summit meeting in Ismailia between President as-Sadat and Menahem Begin, and the contacts between Egypt and friendly states, most important of which are the contacts with West Germany and France and foremost of which is tomorrow's summit meeting in Aswan between President as-Sadat and U.S. President Carter.

This is in addition to the continuous contacts with the African, nonalined and European states.

Dr Ghali pointed out that another stage in the Egyptian diplomatic move will begin when the political and military committees meet in Jerusalem and Cairo. These two committees will submit the results of their work to the second phase of the Cairo preparatory conference, which will begin this month. The political committee will be a quadripatrite committee consisting of Egypt, Israel, the United States and the United Nations. The military committee will be bilateral, with Egypt and Israel its members.

Dr Ghali emphasized that Egypt totally rejects any attempts to achieve a partial or unilateral solution because Egypt adheres to total withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and to the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, the leader of the Egyptian delegation to the Cairo preparatory conference, said that Egypt's ultimate aim is to achieve a comprehensive settlement which would provide for withdrawal from all the Arab territories and for the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He stressed that Egypt does not agree to the discussion of the question of Egyptian borders.

'Abd al-Majid said that the Cairo preparatory conference has achieved some positive results and that Egypt affirmed at this conference its firm stand which is based on total Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and its rejection of any partial or interim solution. He pointed out that there is a possibility of holding negotiations on reciprocal security measures between the two sides.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid explained that the Cairo meetings provided an opportunity for direct discussions between Egypt and Israel, that Egypt confirmed its firm stand to all the parties which participated in the first phase of these meetings, that world public opinion is now fully aware of Egypt's attitude toward the question of peace, and that this opinion demands that Israel go along with Egyptian policy. Another result of the conference is the continuation of the efforts to prepare well for the Geneva peace conference.

PAPERS COMMENT ON SHAH'S VISIT, ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS

NC0908377 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 9 Jan 78 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Today's Cairo papers welcome Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's visit to Egypt and stress the importance of the meeting which is expected to begin in Aswan today between him and President Anwar as-Sadat.

On the other hand, the papers disapprove of Israeli Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon's statements on the Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories and his assertion that Israel will not surrender its civilian settlements in Sinai.

Regarding the meeting which is expected to take place between President as-Sadat and the shah of Iran in Aswan today, AL-JUMHURIYAH says in its editorial: This meeting is a continuation of the unceasing efforts Egypt is exerting with all the influential parties in the world to maintain the momentum in the peace process in the Middle East.

The paper explains the important and effective role which the shah of Iran can play in achieving peace in the area. The paper says: Iran is one of the major regional powers in the area and one of the major oil powers in the world. It has excellent relations with the United States and normal ones with the Soviet Union. Iran maintains contact with Israel and has ideas on a peaceful settlement for the Middle East issue.

AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that President Carter visited Iran during his recent tour and adds that the subject of peace in the Middle East was paramount in his talks with the shah. This gives a new dimension to today's meeting between President as-Sadat and the shah, 1 week before the Jerusalem political meetings and the Cairo military meetings.

In its main commentary today, AL-AKHBAR deals with statements by Israeli officials on the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories--statements which have increased in the past 3 days. AL-AKHBAR says: The hero of these statements is Israeli Agriculture Minister Ar'iel Sharon, who is also the minister responsible for these settlements.

In his latest statement on the settlements, Sharon affirmed that Israel will not surrender its civilian settlements in Sinai and that no peace can be established without the existence of a belt of Israeli villages that would extend from Al-'Arish on the Mediterranean Sea to Sharm ash-Shaykh on the Red Sea. AL-AKHBAR believes that the recent repetition of the Israeli statements primarily indicates that the Israelis are still gripped by fear and division and that they have not been able to rid themselves of their nature of bargaining, even if this bargaining drives them to take such stands which are devoid of any logic or reason.

AL-AKHBAR: GAP BETWEEN ISRAELI, EGYPTIAN VIEWS STILL WIDE

NC0706311 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 7 Jan 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] AL-AKHBAR points out that the gap in the views of Egypt and Israel is still wide. This is despite the fact that President Carter believes the proposal he made in Aswan can serve as a strong basis for the bridge to peace. During his meetings in Iran, India, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, Carter became convinced that all the Arab people, the Islamic peoples, and the Middle East peoples support As-Sadat's position in rejecting Menahem Begin's proposals.

The paper expresses the opinion that despite the optimism caused by the results of the Aswan meeting between Presidents as-Sadat and Carter, the Israeli decisionmaker must realize that the Egyptian people will not accept peace at any price. The Egyptian people will not lose patience as a result of extensive bargaining and maneuvering. The Egyptian people believe they fulfilled their duty when President as-Sadat made his legendary bold initiative, when they gave him such stunning massive support, and when they resisted those who want war to the last Egyptian soldier. The Egyptian people will lose a little if the peace talks fail, but Israel will lose everything if these talks fail. It will lose recognition, peace, and secure borders. But in Egypt, the Egyptian fighter will be fiercer than he was before and will have greater belief that he has done everything possible to regain his land through peace, while the other side insists on giving it back only through war. The Egyptian citizen will feel that his duty is to work harder to develop and liberate Egypt at the same time. He will realize that his national duty is to bear greater sacrifices, which he will give willingly out of conviction and belief.

Such failure will make the Arabs sense their responsibility toward the issue in the face of Israel. They will feel greater moral, economic, military and spiritual commitment toward Egypt.

Concluding its article, AL-AKHBAR stresses that Egyptian public opinion, nevertheless, does not want Israel to lose the opportunity for peace, because it ultimately wants peace to prevail in the region.

RADIO DISCUSSES RECENT CARTER STATEMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST

NC062115Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Jan 78 NC

["We and the World" program: "Carter's Statements and How Far Israel Can Be Committed to Them"]

[Excerpts] We do not want to anticipate events or to assess the situation in a way that would increase or decrease the cautious optimism roused by President Carter's statements about his meetings with President Anwar as-Sadat and Carter's statement in Aswan on the need to recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and on enabling the Palestinians to participate in determining their future.

We do not believe that neutral feelings should exist between the occupier of the land and the true owner of the land. We believe America must pressure the occupier in favor of the owner of the right, particularly since President as-Sadat's initiative has given maximum proof of a desire for peace based on justice and after it has been proved that this kind of a permanent peace can only be brought about by solving the Palestinian problem on the basis of recognition of the Palestinians' legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination.

What we expect from U.S. policy toward Israel is that the United States should implement in practical terms the contents of President Carter's statement in Aswan. In other words, the United States should play a direct, active role in the activities of the Cairo conference political committee.

We interpret the phrase "direct, active role" as meaning pressuring Israel into adhering to the principles of peace, as was agreed upon at the Aswan talks.

There is one other thing: We are talking here about the form of the Egyptian move chosen by President Anwar as-Sadat when he decided to go directly to Jerusalem after realizing that this was the only way to destroy the barrier of suspicion, fear and lack of confidence. The form that this move took does not tolerate others stopping at mere statements or trying to freeze the discussions by leading them into a stalemate. Moreover, Egypt will not accept any discussions being turned into anything like the disarmament talks, which have been going on for over a quarter of a century and are still going on.

Egypt has pointed out the shortest road to peace. The attention of the entire world has been focused on this road. It will be very difficult for Israel to lead the world astray without arousing suspicion. Moreover, the extremist statements which we are now hearing from Israel could well be mere tactics. However, we warn that indulgence in these tactics could drive the situation away from peace completely.

HUSAYN RECEIVES LEBANESE NATIONALIST DELEGATION

JN0921297 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 9 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn received at his office at the National Command building this evening a delegation of the Lebanese nationalist movement, comprising Comrade George Hawi, assistant secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party and vice president of the central political council of the Lebanese nationalist movement; Comrade Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the communist action organization and executive secretary general of the central political council of the Lebanese nationalist movement; Comrade [name indistinct], deputy secretary of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Lebanon; and Comrade Tahsin al-Atrash, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Lebanon. Comrade 'Abd al-Majid ar-Rafi'i, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command attended. During the meeting, they discussed the current situation in the Arab area and the developments currently taking place in Lebanon.

VICE PRESIDENT MA'RUF ARRIVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT TO GDR

For reportage on Vice President Ma'ruf's official visit to the GDR, see the East Germany section of the 9 January issue and subsequent issues of the Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

PALESTINIAN REJECTIONIST FRONT SECRETARY ENDS VISIT

JN1008107 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 10 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 10 January--Dr Samir Ghawshah, secretary of the rejectionist front and Palestinian popular struggle secretary general, left Baghdad today following a 1-week visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Dr Ghawshah said that his talks with Ba'th Party officials were successful and fruitful. He said that he sensed keenness on pan-Arab issues and the Palestinian cause in particular and an absolute readiness to confront all plots, attempts to liquidate the Palestinian cause and capitulatory solution.

He added that the current stage and its dangers should motivate the Arab progressive forces to mobilize their resources regarding As-Sadat's treasonous policy and the capitulatory course aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause and striking against all Arab progressive forces.

HUNGARIAN PEACE COUNCIL DELEGATION ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN0716337 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1608 GMT 7 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 7 January--A Hungarian Peace Council delegation headed by Nandorne Sebestyen, secretary general of the council and member of the World Peace Council, arrived in Baghdad today on a 5-day visit to Iraq. The Hungarian delegation will hold talks with a number of Iraqi officials aimed at strengthening cooperation in a number of fields of interest to the forces of progress and freedom in the world.

Meets With Iraqi Counterpart

JN081104Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 8 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 8 January--'Aziz Sharif, secretary general of the National Council for Peace and Solidarity in Iraq, today met with the Hungarian Peace Council delegation headed by Nandorne Sebestyen, secretary general of the Hungarian Peace Council. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Fattah Muhammad Amin, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and of the presidium of the National Council for Peace and Solidarity in Iraq.

A review was made of the current Arab situation and Iraq's stand regarding the U.S.-Zionist scheme and the collusion of the reactionary forces aimed at striking at the Arab liberation movement, liquidating the Palestinian issue and entrenching imperialist positions in the region.

Meets With Ba'th Official

JN081510Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 8 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 8 January--Dr Munif ar-Razzaz, the assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party, today met with a Hungarian delegation headed by Nandorne Sebestyen, the Hungarian National Peace Council secretary general and member of the World Peace Council.

Dr ar-Razzaz briefed the delegation on the current situation in the Arab area in the aftermath of the trip of shame As-Sadat made to the occupied Arab territory. Ar-Razzaz added that this trip is aimed at containing the Arab and world liberation movements with a view to liquidating them. Thus, this forms part of an old scheme the imperialists have been working on to establish their presence in the area.

During the meeting, the head of the Hungarian delegation denounced As-Sadat's trip and the imperialist and reactionary maneuvers in the area. The head of the delegation said that this maneuver, which is allegedly to advocate peace in the area, is aimed at dispersing the Arab ranks and robbing the Palestinian people of their national rights.

The meeting was attended by 'Aziz Sharif, the secretary general of the Iraqi National Peace and Solidarity Council.

SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH USSR

JN081707Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 8 January--Iraq and the Soviet Union today signed a protocol for scientific cooperation between the two countries.

In accordance with this protocol, the two sides will exchange experts and scientific research in various domains. They will also participate in symposiums held by the scientific research centers and institutes in both countries. The two sides will reach an agreement on the program to hold scientific conferences and symposiums in which scientists from both countries will participate.

The protocol further provides for exchanging scientific news and material among their centers and institutes and for facilitating the reception of scientists in scientific research centers and institutes.

In accordance with the protocol, meetings will be held every 2 years between delegations of the Iraqi Scientific Research Establishment and the Soviet Academy of Sciences in Moscow to implement the protocol and develop bilateral cooperation.

The protocol was signed on behalf of the Iraqi Scientific Research Establishment by Dr Hatif Hammudi al-Jalil, the chief of the establishment, and on behalf of the Soviet Academy of Sciences by Yulian Vladimirovich Bromley, deputy secretary general of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

The two officials praised bilateral cooperation after signing the protocol and affirmed their concern to develop this cooperation.

FINNISH MINISTER OF STATE ARRIVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT

JN100810Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 10 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 10 January--(Arforoyd Kenin), minister of state in the Finnish Foreign Ministry and officer in charge of foreign economic affairs, arrived in Baghdad today on a week's visit to Iraq.

In a statement upon his arrival, the Finnish official said that he will hold talks with Iraqi officials aimed at developing economic and industrial cooperation between the two countries. He added that he will participate in the meetings of the joint Iraqi-Finnish cooperation committee.

ERITREAN LABOR UNION DELEGATION ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN091132Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 9 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 9 January--A delegation of the Eritrean Workers Union led by Abdulrahman Saleh Nkrumah, chairman of the union's Executive Committee, arrived here last evening to participate in the joint labor meeting being held to unify the Eritrean labor movement.

The International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions called for convening this meeting in Baghdad tomorrow as part of the confederation's efforts to achieve unity among the Eritrean labor factions.

In a press statement on arrival, Nkrumah praised the support of the political command of the party and the revolution for the Eritrean revolution and for all the liberation movements in the Arab homeland. He said this support stems from national principles.

BRIEFS

IRAQI-IRANIAN CULTURAL AGREEMENT--Baghdad, 20 December--The Revolution Command Council has ratified an agreement for cultural cooperation between Iraq and Iran signed in Teheran on 9 July. The agreement, which is published here today, provides for exchanging visits between scientists, professors and students as well as consolidating ties between the universities and facilitating the establishment of technical and scientific exhibitions in the two countries. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 20 Dec 77 JN]

SWEDISH FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION--Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received the Swedish friendship delegation headed by a former deputy foreign minister. The meeting, which was attended by the Swedish ambassador, reviewed relations between the two countries and the means to promote these relations in all fields. The delegation arrived in Baghdad on Wednesday at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry. [Text] [Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Dec 77 JN]

HUSAYN RECEIVES WIDOW OF ASSASSINATED PLO REPRESENTATIVE

JN091638Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Jan 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received in the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon the widow of the late Sa'id Hamami, former PLO representative in London. His majesty offered his condolences and sympathy on the death of the late Sa'id Hamami.

The widow of the deceased expressed her thanks and appreciation to King Husayn and the Jordanian Government for their kind condolences.

AD-DUSTUR LAUDS PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE'S VISIT

JN100845Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 10 Jan 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Welcoming Algerian President Boumediene on his visit to Jordan, which is to begin today, the newspaper AD-DUSTUR writes:

With overwhelming feelings of love and true brotherhood, Jordan receives today His Excellency President Houari Boumediene on his first official visit to this country. The visit comes at a stage considered one of the most crucial through which our nation is passing, while the Arab citizen, wherever he is, is looking for quick, intensive action by Arab leaders to close ranks and crystallize unified Arab action. Thus it is natural under these circumstances for the individual in our Arab homeland to look with hope to the Algerian president's visit as an important step leading to the road of saving our nation from division and disintegration, especially since our great guest possesses the prominent and well-known characteristics of courage, wisdom and a well-versed practice of shouldering responsibility.

Zionist arrogance maifested daily, which reaffirms insistence of swallowing up more occupied Arab territory, is in itself a decisive clue that the just peace we are seeking is still far away, that Israel's provocative practices are continually drawing the region away from the desired peace.

AD-DUSTUR further says: Jordan still adheres to the position stated by His Majesty King Husayn and over which all the Arabs agree. This position is represented by the necessity of achieving a comprehensive settlement guaranteeing complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, with Arab Jerusalem in the forefront, and recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Undoubtedly, this clear and frank position, which rejects capitulation, should become the basis for rebuilding unified Arab action at this difficult stage through which all the Arabs are passing.

The paper concludes by stating: The card on which Begin was counting on after all that that has happened in the Arab arena relies on the concept that the Arab leaders have parted forever. Such a concept, however, is no more than an evil wish, as those leaders--from the position of national and historic responsibility they bear--are capable of surmounting division, producing unified action and depriving Begin of his cheap bet.

BRITISH DEFENSE SECRETARY WINDS UP 2-DAY VISIT

Received by Badran

JN071640Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Prime Minister and Defense Minister Mudar Badran received in his office this afternoon British Secretary of State for Defense Frederick Mulley. During the meeting they reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East situation, particularly following the Egyptian president's initiative and the subsequent steps. They also reviewed the relations of cooperation between Jordan and Britain in various spheres.

The prime minister asserted that the efforts for a peace settlement in the Middle East require Israel to be more positive and to reciprocate equally the Egyptian president's initiative.

The meeting was attended by the British ambassador in Amman.

Meets With Husayn

JN071928Y Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Jan 78 JN

[Text] His Mjesty King Husayn received at Al-Hashimiyah Palace this evening the British secretary of state for defense, Frederick Mulley, who is currently visiting Jordan. The meeting was attended by Staff Lt Gen ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the armed forces, and the British ambassador in Amman.

Leaves Amman 9 Jan

JN091127Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1016 GMT 9 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpt] Amman, 9 January--Frederick Mulley, British secretary of state for defense, and the delegation accompanying him left Amman this morning after a 2-day visit to Jordan. During the visit he met with His Majesty King Husayn; Prime Minister Mudar Badran; Staff Lt Gen ash-Sharif Zayid ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; and a number of government and military officials.

While in Jordan the British secretary of defense and the delegation accompanying him visited a number of military installations as well as Jordanian tourist and cultural sites.

KING HUSAYN RECEIVES UAE COURT OFFICIAL

JN071545Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1532 GMT 7 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 7 January--His Majesty King Husayn received His Highness Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad, head of the Royal Court in the UAE, at Al-Hashimiyah Palace today. During the meeting discussions dealt with existing brotherly relations between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the UAE and aspects of cooperation between the two countries.

Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad arrived in Amman today for a 2-day visit to Jordan.

Royal Court Chief Leaves

JN081503Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 8 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 8 January--UAE Royal Court chief Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad today left Amman at the end of a 2-day visit to Jordan during which he was received by King Husayn and held talks with high-ranking Jordanian officials on the latest developments in the Middle East crisis, issues of joint concern, and relations between the two countries.

SARKIS OUTLINES LEBANON'S INTERESTS IN SETTLEMENT

NC061706Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Jan 78 NC

[Speech by Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis at 6 January meeting in Beirut with the diplomatic corps in Lebanon--recorded]

[Excerpts] From the beginning of the Middle East crisis, Lebanon has taken a frank, clear attitude calling for just peace based on protecting the just right of the Palestinian people to their land. We are taking great interest in following the moves taking place on the regional and international levels to find a solution to this dispute. During the past few weeks events have been happening in unprecedentedly rapid succession. Everyone has been springing new surprises on us. These surprises are critically important to Lebanon. Disregard for the basic principles governing relations between countries, principles on which solutions to the current problems should rest, will have disastrous results. If this disregard becomes the rule, there will be no stability. No state, either big or small, rich or poor, strong or weak, will be secure or tranquil.

Disregard lurks not only in the utter denial of values and rights, but in any attempt to put an end to the people's pursuit of their rights and in keeping silent about these attempts. When a country like Lebanon is still busy dressing its wounds and exerting every effort to recover its health and its role, which are fundamental to the health of this region, then the world's conscience, which is calling for just and sound solutions to the problems of this region, must not disregard attitudes and actions which are, in fact, part of this disregard. Considering that we are living in an age in which international principles stipulate respect for peoples' rights to their entities, their sovereignty and national honor, it is astonishing to hear reports indicating solutions aimed at keeping or resettling the Palestinians in this or that country. The Palestinian people have not abandoned their legal rights to their land; nor have we abandoned our right to every inch of our territory or conceded any measure of our sovereignty.

Lebanon is still loyal to the open-door policy which it chose for itself and will contribute with the other parties concerned to finding a just and lasting solution to the Middle East question. Our nonparticipation at this time in the meetings which are being convened to discuss proposed solutions in fact emanates from a sound comprehension of our national interest and from the fact that nonparticipation accords with the requirements of the unity of Arab ranks. As for our attitude on aspects of the settlement in the region which concerns us, it is our own preogative to express it. This, naturally, requires more coordination and contacts with the brothers that are closest to us and with our friends in the world to obtain more support for our stand.

Regarding the leaked reports about solutions being drawn up that involve resettling the Palestinian people or leaving them where they are, we affirm that any solution which does not consider the Palestinian problem as the crux of the Middle East crisis will not be a sound solution. At any rate, Lebanon will not accept any kind of settlement providing for the Palestinians to remain in on its territory because it is aware that this would encroach upon the very core of its interests, would be beyond Lebanon's ability and would harm the Palestinian issue itself. We will exert every effort and direct our energies in all directions and on all levels in order to preserve our rights.

In the name of all that Lebanon represents in terms of historical heritage and civilized values, it has the right to appeal to the international community and world conscience not to violate the rights of its sons and to draw attention to the fact that the peace we desire in this region will be based only on justice and that it would be an injustice to solve the Palestinian problem on the basis of creating a new problem for Lebanon and its people.

Al-Jumayyil, Abu Iyad Comment

NC071610Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpts] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil [leader of the Lebanese Phalangist Party] has stated: We certainly support what President Ilyas Sarkis said because he rejected, with complete frankness, the resettlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon and spoke from a position of responsibility as an official who adheres to frankness and truthfulness. He said: The resettlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon is unacceptable and all parties reject such a plan in any form because such matter is impossible to implement nationally, economically and socially, and in addition the Palestinians refuse to abandon their land.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil added that some of the attitudes that have been expressed on the question of resettlement have paved the way to some extent to reaching agreement on national issues. This despite the fact that this matter should not be subject to discussion at all. Attitudes should not stem from the Palestinians' refusal to abandon their land. We must view the matter from the angle that all Lebanese refuse to surrender their land to anyone.

Salah Khalaf, [Abu Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee], has also expressed the Palestinian side's view by saying: We consider the speech of President Sarkis as forming a sound basis for any solution to the Middle East crisis. President Sarkis is accustomed to adopting national stands on pan-Arab issues. The details and the positive aspects of the speech notwithstanding, we assert to President Sarkis and the Lebanese people that we do not accept any piece of land in Palestine. He added: We reject any talk about resettlement, and we will continue to reject it as we rejected it when we were children and students. Therefore, we support President Sarkis. We are against and very strongly reject any solution aimed at resettling the Palestinians in any Arab country.

MEMORANDUM ON PALESTINIAN REHABILITATION ISSUED

NC061328Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1252 GMT 6 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 6 January--MENA has learned that the Lebanese Foreign Ministry has sent memorandums to Lebanese diplomatic missions abroad containing a detailed explanation of Lebanon's stand which rejects all plans to rehabilitate the Palestinians in Lebanon or in the Arab states and adheres to the establishment of a Palestinian state as a basic, radical solution for the Palestinian issue. The Foreign Ministry has asked its missions to convey this stand to the states to which they are accredited as part of the latest diplomatic moves on the subject.

PDRY PRIME MINISTER TO ARRIVE 10 JANUARY

JN091123Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Jan 78 p 16 JN

[Text] Damascus, JNA--It was officially stated here yesterday that PDRY Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad will arrive in Damascus tomorrow for talks with Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi and high-ranking Syrian officials on the latest developments in the Arab area in particular and the Middle East crisis in general. They will also discuss relations between the two countries.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES ARAB POPULAR CONFERENCE DELEGATION

JN081252Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Jan 78 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1100 today the delegation of the Arab popular conference permanent general secretariat. The meeting was attended by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, Regional Command member and chairman of the foreign relations bureau; and Comrade Yusuf al-As'ad, Regional Command member and head of the peasants office.

President's Remarks

JN081702Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpt] The head of the delegation, 'Abd al-Hamid Farid, and the members of the delegation spoke, explaining that the purpose of their visit is to greet the president and the Syrian Arab people in appreciation for Syria's role in the past, present and future and Syria's steadfast stand against the imperialist and Zionist schemes. Their visit is also to discuss how to add new elements to the fronts of steadfastness and resistance.

They then explained to the president the activities of the permanent secretariat of the Arab popular conference and reviewed the steps and meetings of the permanent secretariat. They also made clear their intention to hold their coming meeting in Damascus. They praised Syria's cooperation and the cooperation of the Ba'th Party representatives. They also declared their great appreciation for the president's stand and efforts. They asked to hear his opinion on current developments.

President Hafiz al-Asad explained to them at length the current situation and recent developments, affirming Syria's firm stand rejecting As-Sadat's capitulationist visit, and Syria's work to thwart all its consequences because this visit and its consequences are against the Arab nation's interest.

Speaking about the front of steadfastness and resistance, the president said: We deal with all with an open mind, determined to achieve the aims of our Arab nation.

The president said what is now required is to define our aims clearly and to determine the road which will lead to them and not to stray from the road or the aims.

The president also said: We are with you. We support all steps aimed to consolidate the steadfastness of our nation.

After the head and members of the delegation heard the president's statement, they praised the sincerity and clarity of the statement and said they consider it an instruction to be applied to the activities of the permanent secretariat.

Meeting With Ba'th Official

JN071515Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 7 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpt] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, met with a delegation of the Arab popular conference permament general secretariat at the national headquarters at 1030 this morning. The meeting was attended by Dr Fawwaz Sayyah, National Command member of the chief of the office of foreign relations, and Comrade Yusuf al-As'ad, party Regional Command member. The comrade assistant secretary general welcomed the delegation. A review of the activities of the Arab popular conference permament general secretariat was made, in addition a review of the implementation so far of the resolutions of the Arab popular conference recently convened in Tripoli.

The delegation affirmed the need to support Syria in opposing the imperialist-Zionist plans and in continuing the struggle to achieve national goals, liberate occupied Arab territory and restore the Palestinian people's national rights.

TISHRIN REITERATES POSITION ON AS-SADAT INITIATIVE

JN080653Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 Jan 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary entitled "Syria's Positions Are Principled and Truly Clear," the newspaper TISHRIN says: As-Sadat's news media have singled out Syria in their attacks against the Arab states and forces which have rejected surrender and condemned President as-Sadat's visit to occupied Jeruslaem. These media, also backed by Western and Zionist media, are trying to discredit Syria on two counts: First, they claim that Syria will join the talks later on; second, they claim that Syria is steering the PLO and forcing it to oppose As-Sadat's so-called peace initiative.

These claims are baseless. Syria's position toward President as-Sadat's move is a principled one stemming from a firm national and pan-Arab policy which cannot possibly change. Syria has rejected and will continue to reject surrender regardless of the struggle and sacrifices involved. Syria will not be a party to any separate or partial solutions. Syria also cannot possibly consider any solution which means abandoning a single inch of Arab territory occupied on 1967 or relinquishing a single one of the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

President Hafiz al-Asad has stressed these points on more than one occasion. What the president asserts is the real substance of the unchangeable Syrian position. The president is true to his people and nation. His words are not ambiguous and his positions have not, and will not, be two faced.

As for Syria's relationship with the PLO, it is one of a strategic alliance of crucial importance to the Palestine question--the cause of the Arab nation. Syria, which is the cradle of the Palestinian revolution and the lung with which the Palestinain resistance is breathing, has been and will continue to be the strong ally of the Palestinian revolution and the rock on which our Palestinian people rely in their struggle to achieve their national rights--the right to determine their own destiny and to establish their national state on their soil.

Syria, which contributed to the Rabat conference resolutions, honors and adheres to these resolutions. Therefore, Syria backs the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Syria agrees with the PLO in defending the rights and interests of the Palestinian Arab people and in resisting any attempt to negotiate with the enemy on behalf of the Palestinian people or cooperating with the enemy to find puppet Palestinian leaderships which can accept surrender and participate in implementing the plot of liquidating the Palestine question. This natural and understandable stand is a source of pride for Syria, its system and leadership.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES BRITISH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

JN071302Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Jan 78 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1100 today Dennis Walters and Ian Gilmour, British members of Parliament. During the meeting talks were held on the situation in the Middle East.

In reply to questions asked by the two members of Parliament, the president explained Syria's stand toward As-Sadat's capitulationist visit to Jerusalem and its repercussions.

ALGERIA

BOUMEDIENE CABLES KING KHALID AFTER VISIT

LD061320Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] Soon after the presidential aircraft left Riyadh airport, where the president and his delegation were seen off by King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Houari Boumediene, president and chairman of the Council of Revolution, sent a cable to King Khalid in which he said: Our visit to the sister Saudi Arabian Kingdom falls within the framework of consultations and exchange of views which are pursued by our two countries whenever there are new events in the Arab and world sectors.

The talks we conducted with Your Majesty and Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz on developments in the Arab homeland, questions which claim our joint attention and the means of developing and strengthening our bilateral relations assume particular importance, especially in these circumstances in which factors have emerged affecting our nation and its just struggle to regain its rights and safeguard its honor.

We are confident that the talks, which were held in an atmosphere of brotherhood and complete frankness, will give a new impetus to relations between our two countries and will strengthen cooperation between them in various fields, something which corresponds to the aspirations of our peoples, serves the interests of our nation and strengthens our position in the world.

LIBYA

JANA: CHAD HARASSES LIBYAN DIPLOMATS IN NDJAMENA

LD081744Y Tripoli JANA in English 0810 GMT 8 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, January 8, JANA--The Chad regime continues its harassment and provocations against the Jamahiriyah diplomatic mission in Chad, JANA learnt. The latest Chad provocation had been the searching of the diplomatic bags of the Jamahiriyah sent by the Foreign Secretariat in Tripoli to the Jamahiriyah Embassy in Ndjamena, the Chadian capital. The last such search was made on January five in violation of all norms and rules of diplomatic conduct and political relations between states.

MAURITANIA

ALGERIAN CALL FOR SAHARA DISCUSSION REJECTED

LD061450Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Following the recent attempts by Algeria to call a meeting of the coordination bureau of the nonalined movement in Havana to discuss the question of the Sahara, Hamdi Ould Mouknass, Mauritanian minister of state for foreign affairs, has sent a letter to all member states of the coordination bureau informing them that this individual attempt by the Algerian Government is rejected by Mauritania for the following obvious reasons:

First, the nonaligned states at the Colombo summit referred the study of the issue to the OAU.

Second, the question of Western Sahara is a regional issue which above all concerns the OAU and the Arab League, and both of them are making special efforts to find ways and means that could reduce or remove the tension created by Algeria in the region of northwest Africa.

Third, the limited and temporary French intervention took place at the request of the Mauritanian Government so that an end be put to the treacherous military aggression against Mauritania.

Ould Mouknass said that the defense of the Mauritanian territories and the guaranteeing of security for their inhabitants are the concern and jurisdiction of the Mauritanian state. He expressed the conviction that the meeting of the nonalined states which Algeria is seeking to convene is unsuitable and, in fact, could hinder the efforts which are now being made within the framework of both the OAU and the Arab League for the restoration of the situation to normality.

Hamdi Ould Mouknass said that in the event of the rejection of all these basic objections to the convening of the expected meeting, Mauritania will hasten to raise the question of the presence of foreign forces in certain African states, particularly the Cuban forces in Angola.

MOROCCO

PAPER CLAIMS MAJOR OPERATION UNDERTAKEN IN SAHARA

LD051934Y Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 6 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Rabat--"The war of the sands was transformed between 4 and 18 December 1977 into a real mopping-up operation in which more than 40 Moroccan aircraft took part, putting a stop to Algerian propaganda which has been proclaiming that the Moroccan Air Force is not operational in the Sahara." This is stressed this morning by the daily AL-MITHAQ AL-WATANI, which is close to goverrment circles.

The daily declares that this operation marked the beginning of the end of the intervention of Algerian forces under the guise of the POLISARIO in Saharan territory and notes that since mid-December aggressive attacks have effectively stopped owing to the losses suffered by the Algerian forces (141 dead and 100 vehicles destroyed).

The daily adds that in the face of this failure, Algeria has tried to exploit the release of the five French hostages but statements made by these hostages have again given the lie to the myth of "liberated territories" because they have indeed been held prisoner in Algerian territory.

SUDAN

ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES LEAVE SUDAN FOR ADDIS ABABA

NC091754Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 9 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 9 January--An Ethiopian civilian aircraft carrying 143 Ethiopian officers and men who took refuge in Sudan today left Khartoum for Addis Ababa. They were seen off at the airport by senior Sudanese armed forces officers and the Ethiopian ambassador in Sudan. The second group of Ethiopian refugees is expected to leave Khartoum this evening.

EGYPT'S PROPOSALS FOR POLITICAL TALKS OUTLINED

TA091426Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Jan 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Yosef Harif and Yehi'el Limor]

[Excerpt] The Egyptian proposal regarding the agenda of the discussions of the political committee to begin on 16 January in Jerusalem has reached Israel and speaks of two subjects: what is demanded in UN Resolution 242 and the Palestinian question.

The proposal does not go into detail concerning the Palestinian question, nor does it say whether the purpose of the debate on this issue should be the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The Egyptians have not yet responded with counterproposals to the Israeli proposal, and it is possible that they will bring these only upon the opening of the discussions of the political committee. In the clarifications given about the clause on the agenda dealing with the UN resolution, Egypt points mainly to the clause dealing with eliminating any claim [ta'ana] or ending the state of belligerency and honoring and recognizing the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of each of the region's states and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized borders without any threats or acts of violence.

Observers believe that, by raising the matter of Resolution 242 as a subject, Egypt wants to discuss Israel's duty to withdraw from all the territories within the framework of a peace agreement according to what is said (according to Egypt's interpretation) in the introduction to Resolution 242 to the effect that seizure of territory through war is wrong.

It is known that efforts are now being made behind the scenes, through the United States, to find a formula on the Palestinian issue that will satisfy both parties, namely, that there will be no mention of establishing an independent state at any stage and that they will be content with a vague form of self-determination which each party will be able to interpret as it wishes, but the main thing is that the Palestinian issue will not constitute an obstacle on the road toward reaching a peace agreement between Egypt and Israel. The U.S. ambassador in Israel, Samuel Lewis, met with Foreign Minister Dayan at the end of the week for a long talk and it is assumed that they discussed this subject.

Observers believe that Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat does not intend to obtain a decision which would make it clear that he supports the establishment of a Palestinian state but that, because of the views current in the Arab world against him, he would like an Israeli declaration of intent that may be interpreted as giving the Palestinians the right of self-determination in due time.

Differences Over Agenda

TA100842Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[By Dani'el Bloch]

[Text] The foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel and the United States will confer in a special meeting on Sunday evening before the political committee is convened on Monday morning. This possibility was discovered in Jerusalem yesterday. An initial group of 18 Egyptians will arrive in Israel today to begin preparations for the discussions of the political committee. The official Egyptian delegation headed by Foreign Minister Ibrahim Kamil will arrive in Israel on Sunday.

On the same day U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will arrive in Israel and will stay in Jerusalem until Wednesday or Thursday. The political committee, like the military, will generally hold its discussions on Mondays through Thursdays. At the end of the week the Egyptian delegation will return to Cairo. It will return to Israel at the beginning of the following week. This will also be the practice of the Israeli military delegation, which will return from Cairo every weekend.

Egypt has so far transmitted to Israel only its proposals regarding the agenda of the political committee, but not the details of its counterproposals to the Israeli peace proposal. Egypt wants to place two subjects on the agenda: the implementation of Resolution 242 and the Palestinian question.

It is assessed in Jerusalem that the main point of difference in the political committee regarding the direct questions between Israel and Egypt will revolve around the question of the Israeli settlements in the Rafah approaches and the southeastern Sinai district. However, at this stage the main obstacle concerning the discussions concerns the Palestinian question. Egypt does not actually demand an independent Palestinian state, but it does not accept the autonomy plan proposed by the Israeli Government. Political observers in Jerusalem believe that Egypt is aiming at a solution for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip along the lines of Brzezinski's plan concerning a joint Israeli-Jordanian trusteeship for a few years as an interim solution. Nevertheless, it is still assessed in Israel that if Jordan and moderate Palestinian elements do not join the negotiations, Egypt will be ready to sign a separate agreement with Israel and will settle for an agreed declaration of intent on the Palestinian question.

'AL HAMISHMAR Report

Tal00905Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 10 Jan 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[Excerpt] The U.S. ambassador in Israel, Samuel Lewis, handed Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan the Egyptian peace proposal the day before yesterday. The peace proposal consists of only one page and contains Egypt's principles for an agreement with Israel. It seems that the details of the three principles, as published in AL-AHRAM yesterday, are accurate. The document does not make a specific reference to the problem of settlements in the Rafah approaches and in the West Bank.

A source in Jerusalem remarked that the Egyptian document is "completely unimportant" and that the proposals or principles contained in it may, at most, serve as some sort of a basis for a discussion inasmuch as the proposals in question are not concrete and detailed but deal with general lines, the general and known lines of Egypt's position. The source remarked that the Egyptian document includes certain changes regarding the position As-Sadat had already outlined to Prime Minister Begin. The source said that the document does not satisfy Israel. However, all the disputed points and lack of understanding will in any case be clarified in the negotiations that will take place in the military and political committees.

Further analysis of the document indicates that the order in which the Egyptian principles are listed (Israel's withdrawal, the settlement of the Palestinian problem and the preparations for peace after the withdrawal) is also the order in which Egypt wants to discuss them in the political committee. Jerusalem does not agree that the discussions in the political committee should open with negotiations about Israel's withdrawal, and it seems that until the committee convenes next Monday the contacts to determine the agenda will continue. If no agreement is reached by Monday, the first practical point on the agenda of the political committee will be to determine the agenda.

BEGIN DENIES REPORTS OF SINAI LAND EXCHANGE

TA101006Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 10 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has said that the reports that Israel is considering ceding some of its territory in the southern Negev in return for its Sinai settlements are groundless. The prime minister also said that Israel has not received an official Egyptian demand for damages in return for the oil that Israel pumped from the Sinai after the 6-day war.

Begin was speaking with correspondents after participating in a ceremony opening the 25th year of the establishment of Ilan [institution to help disabled children].

ARENS COMMENTS ON GOVERNMENT'S SETTLEMENT POLICY

TA091430Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 9 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The controversial settlement issue was discussed this morning by Israel's prestigious Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. Later, as we now hear from reporter David Essing in the Knesset, the chairman, Moshe Arens, held an unusual press conference:

[Essing--begin recording] The committee hearings are officially secret, but recently more and more of the committee's consultations have been leaked to the press. By holding a news conference, Chairman Arens hopes to combat the leaks by setting the record straight at the outset. The key man to appear today was Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon, the minister responsible for settlement planning. Arens summed up this morning's hearings:

[Arens] Well, the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee had a session this morning to discuss the government decision to establish four settlements in the area of Judaea and Samaria. This meeting was held because the ministers representing the DMC in the government have the right, on the basis of the coalition agreement, to ask for the final decision regarding settlement in Judaea and Samaria to be made in the committee, and they excercised that right in this case. The minister of agriculture, General Sharon, appeared before the committee, explained the plans for the establishment of four settlements, one of them Qarney Shomron, plus three others that will be established within the area of army camps and will involve no sequestration of lands of the inhabitants of the area.

The plan was discussed in the committee. We didn't have a chance to complete the discussion, although I think we are very close to ending it. We shall finalize tomorrow and decide on the government plan tomorrow morning at 0930.

[Question] Those four settlements are located in Judaea and Samaria. Did any new settlements in Sinai, in the Rafah approaches, come up this morning?

[Answer] No. There was some mention of a government plan for settlements in other areas, and it was decided that Mr Sharon would be invited to the committee, probably some time next week, to discuss the overall plans of the government for settlements in all areas.

[Question] And what was the general feeling of the committee?

[Answer] Well, there were some people who were enthusiastic about the plan; others had some reservations. I would guess that the plan will be approved tomorrow, but we will know for sure tomorrow morning.

[Question] General Sharon has criticized the government for not setting up enough settlements. What is your feeling, Professor Arens, about the government's settlement policy?

[Answer] Well, he didn't voice any criticism at the committee meeting this morning. I think we will be in a position to provide an opinion on government policy of settlements after we have heard the overall plan. I am of the opinion that there should be intensive settlement in Judea and Samaria and I hope that the government plan will be sufficient.

[Question] But critics of more settlement say that the settlements could jeopardize the current negotiations with Egypt for a peace treaty.

[Answer] Yes, I have heard that comment. That is not my opinion, because Jewish settlement in Judaea and Samaria is an integral part of Mr Begin's peace proposal.

[Question] There seems to be an escalation, Professor Arens, in statements by both Egypt's President as-Sadat and Israel's Prime Minister Begin. Is the honeymoon over between Egypt and Israel at this point?

[Answer] No, I don't think so, and I wouldn't call it an escalation. I think what we are seeing is the natural give and take that really should be anticipated as part of negotiations between us and Egypt where each side, of course, would like to get the best of the deal and is trying to use world public opinion in order to be able to build up some pressure in favor of its own position. [end recording]

Sharon Comments Reported

TA092032Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 9 Jan 78 TA

[Excerpt] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee today heard from the minister of agriculture, Ari'el Sharon, details about the settlement program in Judaea and Samaria. The minister detailed the program to put three new settlements on the ground in the coming 3 months. Following the minister's survey, a debate opened in the committee. Our correspondent in the Knesset, Avner Tavori, reports:

[Tavori--live] Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon spread a large map on the wall, in the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee's room, and began a short survey of the cabinet's settlement program in Judaea and Samaria. In addition to the settlements in Qarney Shomron and Shilo, the minister pointed to the 3 new settlements which are to move in over the next 3 months, 1 each month. The first, at the beginning of February, in Tel Haris; the second, at the beginning of March, in Tapuah; and the third settlement, at the beginning of April, will move into (Silet al-Dahar). Each of the three settlements belongs to Gush Emunim nuclei.

Minister Sharon reported that several hundred members of Gush Emunim nuclei who were intended for these settlements are now on the spot and, according to him, are living under more difficult conditions than have ever existed before. The land allotted to the settlements, the minister reported, was scattered land which is not being used for agricultural cultivation. When asked by MK Shemu'el Toledano, DMC, if the reference was to taking over land of Arabs or of confiscating private land, Sharon said that no land would be confiscated. He avoided replying to the question of taking over land. MK Nof asked what was the rush in getting the settlements on the land and Minister Sharon replied: The nuclei are living in difficult conditions and the postponement of their settling is likely to lead to their breakup.

Committee Endorses Policy

TA101124Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Jan 78 TA

[Text] By a vote of 14 to 9 the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee endorsed the government's decision on settlement in the territories. Our correspondent in the Knesset 'Amos Goren points out that usually there are no votes in the committee and today's vote was an exception. It was taken at the DMC's request after it had appealed the government's plan. The DMC has the right of appeal on this issue according to the coalition agreement.

The deliberations in the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee lasted 4 hours. The committee also sat for several hours yesterday.

PERES OPPOSES FULL WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI, RAFAH

TA091853Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The chairman of the Labor Party, Shim'on Peres, urged the prime minister to insist on their being no full Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. In a meeting with the activists of the emergency campaign of the Labor Party, Peres expressed support for the cabinet decision to strengthen the settlements in the Rafah salient. He pointed out that in fact the negotiations with Egypt had returned to their beginning after the prime minister announced that Israel would demand changes in the international border if the Egyptians did not agree to Israeli settlements beyond the border of Israeli sovereignty. In Shim'on Peres' opinion, this is how the cabinet should have started the negotiations.

BEN-ELISAR SAID TO PAY QUICK VISIT TO ROMANIA

TA101120Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The director of the prime minister's office, Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, left for Bucharest yesterday and will return to Israel today. Our correspondent has learned that Dr Ben-Elisar will meet with Romanian leaders and perhaps with President Ceausescu. He will report on the latest developments in the Middle East.

The prime minister's press adviser, Dan Patir, refused to confirm or deny the report.

MA'ARIV Report

TA101202Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Jan 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Yosef Harif]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has sent a special emissary to Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu with a personal message.

The emissary, the director general of the prime minister's office, Dr Ben-Elisar, left for Bucharest yesterday and was to meet with President Ceausescu yesterday before his return to Israel today. It has been learned that the aim of this mission is to update the Romanian president about recent developments in the Middle East and toward the opening of the poilitical talks in Jerusalem.

WEST BANK ARABS JOIN BEGIN IN OPPOSING JORDAN RULE

TA091201Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Jan 78 p 4 TA

[By Yosef Zuri'el]

[Text] The prime minister's declaration that Jordan does not have the right to rule Judaea and Samaria was again supported by Arab personages in the West Bank yesterday.

Mayors and public figures said that this is the first time they have identified with the prime minister's position to the effect that King Husayn has nothing to do with their territory.

According to them, this statement is very significant for the entire Arab population in the occupied territories and will contribute to the consolidation of a uniform front against the efforts of the Jordanian Government to strengthen its political foothold in the region.

Jericho Mayor 'Abd al-'Aziz as-Suwayti expressed the opinion of many yesterday when he said: "If previously there was a chance that Jordanian rule would somehow be restored to the West Bank, now we hope that this chance has vanished. Still, if it does happen that King Husayn rules us again one day, all residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will rise up against him. The days when he treated us like slaves are past. We are now in the midst of a struggle for independence."

Bethlehem Mayor Elyas Frayj believes that it is not King Husayn but the Israeli Government which is the focus of the problem. The latter, according to him, wants real peace with its neighbors together with the annexation of areas vital for its security. This combination, Frayj says, is unreasonable, and Israel will have to decide what it prefers, peace or a struggle with the entire world, in addition to bloody wars with its neighbors.

The prime minister's declaration yesterday is also the subject of the editorials of the Arabic papers published in east Jerusalem. AL-FAJR writes that the prime minister speaks of settlements as if they were strategic positions, while President as-Sadat views them as bargaining chips. However, the paper believes that As-Sadat will ultimately be convinced by the arguments of the Israeli prime minister and will adopt the basics of his settlement policy.

AL-QUDS writes that the prime minister's statements on settlement matters constitute a grave obstacle on the road to peace, particularly against the background of the convening of the joint Israeli-Egyptian committees. The paper believes that the prime minister is using international law for his own needs and ignoring the fact that his arguments do not serve the cause of peace.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED CONCERNING NEW SETTLEMENTS

Gush Emunim at Shilo

TA081748Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Jan 78 TA

[Text] A group from the Gush Emunim Shilo nucleus settled this morning in historical Shilo. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that there are 30 settlers in six mobile homes and they will, among other things, participate in archeological excavations at the site by Dr Ze'ev Yevin. An IDF unit was sent to the site to guard the settlers. Approval for settling was given by Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Zippori. Our correspondent remarks that the decision to establish three Gush Emunim settlements in Samaria was adopted about a week ago. The settlements in question are Shilo, Qarne Shomron and Tel Hareb.

National Fund Teams in Sinai

NC0811152 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Jan 78 NC

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] Despite denials, reinforced teams to operate heavy equipment will be sent to Yamit district today and tomorrow by the Jewish National Fund [JNF] in order to carry out work on the preparation of an infrastructure for the 20 footholds in the area. The leaders of the JNF were told to finish their work within 10 days. More details from our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer:

[Schiffer--begin recording] The operators of bulldozers and other heavy equipment of the JNF who went to the Rafah salient on Friday did not know who decided on the preparation of the area for the 20 footholds in the region, but it is a fact that the personnel of the JNF development directorate received an order to prepare an area of sand dunes along the strip extending from Ne'ot Sinai north toward the Yamit region within 10 days, in preparation for setting up 20 Israeli footholds. They were informed that the intention is to flesh out the shore strip on which the Israeli settlement in the Rafah salient is located. In addition it was decided to speed up the setting up of the four settlements that the government authorized the establishment of a year ago.

Today and tomorrow heavy equipment teams will move into the area and begin implementing a plan which can be termed the fleshing out of existing settlements and footholds. What are they? We were informed that this is a relatively small area, on which some huts or American tents will be set up, in addition to a water tower and a surrounding fence. No decision has yet been made as to who will man these footholds or even whether they will be manned at all. The settlement department of the Zionist Organization announced that the settlements which will be established and the existing settlements to which farm units will be added, as well as the 20 footholds, are part of the southern project prepared by Prof Ra'anan Weiss.

The question which remains unanswered is: Who gave the order to establish the 20 footholds? Informed sources told us yesterday that the establishment of 20 footholds if one of the least complicated matters to implement from a technical standpoint. As for the method, the sources said, the concept behind this recalls the period of the "tower and stockade," and this concept will again be the subject of discussion in the cabinet today. [end recording]

While the Yamit settlers are preparing a series of meetings in order to convince representatives of the coalition parties of the necessity of implementing Israeli sovereignty on the region, the first signs of the fleshing out of the Israeli population in the region are being observed. Our correspondent reports details:

[Unnamed correspondent--begin recording] On Friday Minister of Agriculture Ari'el Sharon and the head of the settlement department, Ra'anan Weiss, visited the area. At the time mechanical equipment was already at the site and primary work was starting in the area of the Peri'el and Diqla settlements.

It is difficult to know whether the heavy mechanical equipment is creating facts in the spirit of the Weiss plan for fleshing out the salient or whether the purpose is a speedy implementation of the government plan to establish outposts. The inhabitants of Diqla heard from a representative of a government office that in the next few days they will see definite changes in the area adjacent to their settlement. Even if the subject is a speedy execution of the fleshing-out plan, this is not apparent at the site. The matter acquires a political implication mainly when you read the newspapers; the excavation work which is apparent at the site is also understood to be within the context of the old plans in the existing settlements or those planned before the peace contacts. Until now, the vigorous development plans in Yamit region constituted a controversial public topic more than the apparent activity at the site. [end recording]

Plans Laid for Rafah

TA081514Y Jerusalem POST in English 8 Jan 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By POST reporters Zvi Arenstein and Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Yamit--At least six or seven new settlements will be established in the Rafah (Yamit) area in the next few weeks, in order to lay an Israeli claim to as much of the area as possible before final peace terms are agreed upon. This was related by a participant in a meeting here on Friday that finalized immediate developments plans for the area.

The participant said the assumption was that the border with Egypt would eventually return to the pre-1967 lines, but that those at the meeting felt there was great importance in settling as many families and quickly creating as many new settlements here as possible to preserve the area's Israeli character.

Taking part in the 2-hour meeting were Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon, World Zionist Organization settlement department head Ra'anan Weitz, and senior ministry and Jewish Agency officials. Weitz himself would not say how many settlements are being built in the area, and would not commit himself to a specific answer when asked what two Jewish National Fund bulldozers were doing clearing land near Moshav Haruvit, 10 km east of Al-'Arish.

Sharon would only say that "Jews will continue to live in this area" and stress that the government would not abandon any settlements there. He declined to say whether work was being speeded up due to political considerations.

Sharon told the Jerusalem POST late last night that the work is being done "in accordance with decisions of the government, with its knowledge and approval. It's not a one-man operation." He would not say whether the operations were being carried out with the consent of the entire cabinet or of a more limited forum.

The source said that one way this will be accomplished is by building at least six or seven new settlements in the Rafah salient within the next few weeks in order to lay an Israeli claim on as much of the area as possible before final peace terms are agreed upon.

Meanwhile, a source at Friday's meeting said that plans were discussed to create an area between Kibbutz Nir Yizhaq and Moshav Ne'ot Sinai near Al-'Arish, depending on where Israeli settlements will be allowed to remain, which would have at least 40 Israeli agricultural settlements within 10 years' time.

The participants used a large map of the southern project area (which includes the Negev), which was covered with various green areas indicated as suitable for settlement. It was understood that there are enough available locations in the area, so that even if Israeli settlements are not allowed past Moshav Diqla, the southern project plans can be fulfilled.

Thinking at the meeting centred on creating a large, dense area of Jewish population which would be capable of repelling any sort of Egyptian movement towards Israel in the extreme case that the peace process fails.

The future of the city of Yamit was apparently not discussed at the meeting, since it is not an agricultural settlement. When Weitz was asked if building will continue at Yamit, he answered "without a doubt."

Sharon was similarly optimistic about the future of the settlement to local residents who asked his opinion. "Just look at what's happening here around you," he told them in the way of reassurance.

Meanwhile, officials last night privately acknowledged that the bulldozing is intended partly to demonstrate to Yamit-area settlers that they will not be abandoned under the peace plan.

On Friday, the POST reported from Yamit that work was being carried out at the planned site of Peri'el, at Haruvit and at Katif in the Gaza Strip. Israel radio reported that work had begun at Diqla on Thursday, but the POST's Zvi Arenstein saw none when he visited there.

Some of the work is not new. The Housing Ministry earlier published advertisements inviting people to apply for 250 new homes to be built in the area and Minister Gid'on Patt told the settlers that his ministry is continuing "business as usual." But Israel radio insisted over the weekend that work on new sites will begin today.

Weitz on Rafah Settlements

TA081504Y Jerusalem POST in English 8 Jan 78 p 2 TA

[By POST reporter Abraham Rabinovich]

[Excerpts] The construction of about 30 settlements in the Rafah area--apparently on both sides of the green line--is to get under way shortly, Dr Ra'anan Weitz indicated last night.

Weitz, head of the settlement department of the World Zionist Organization, told the Jerusalem POST that he had agreed with Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon, after a tour of the Rafah area on Friday, on implementing the first stage of the proposed southern project "as quickly as possible." He said it would not be a hindrance to peace.

Weitz said last night that the first stage would involve about one-third of the total project. He declined to say on which side of the green line (Israel's pre-1967 armistice lines) these first-stage settlements would be built, but his tour of the Rafah area on Friday with Sharon indicated a special interest in that area.

Weitz said last night that a special regional authority charged with implementing the southern project would begin operating this morning in Yamit. Heading it will be David Nahmi'as, who for the past few years has headed the settlement department's district office in Beersheba. The settlement department and the Agriculture Ministry will be partners in this regional authority, the first of its kind in Israel, Weitz said.

He declined to say whether work on the ground had begun. But funds for the initial stage of the southern project had already been approved by the Finance Ministry, he said.

"We are just implementing what was proposed a long time ago," said Weitz. "It's not being done in spite or to hinder any negotiations for peace. It will not stand in the way of peace." Asked how Israeli settlements could live under Egyptian sovereignty, he said "how do you convince a couple in love to live without a marriage contract?" He did not amplify.

Friday's tour had been undertaken at his initiative, said Weitz. Its purpose was to show Sharon the results obtained at experiemental stations and farms employing methods proposed for the southern project, including glasshouse growing of winter vegetables.

Sharon had only recently become convinced by experts, said Weitz, that this kind of farming was feasible on a large scale. By the intensive use it makes of water and soil, he said, it permits three to four times as many families to be employed in agriculture in a given area than with conventional farming.

POST Report on Progress

TA090620Y Jerusalem POST in English 9 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[By POST reporter Zvi Arenstein]

[Text] Yamit--Ground-breaking has begun in the Rafah salient on four new settlements which were not under construction when the discussion on bringing new families into the region began last week. Three of these settlements are adjacent to Moshav Haruvit, 10 kms east of Al-'Arish, where three bulldozers were working yesterday on preparing the sites. The fourth is adjacent to Moshav Nezer Nazani, near Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip.

There was no evidence yesterday of massive movement of bulldozers to new locations to begin work for new settlements. Work was continuing as usual at Peri'el and Talmey Yosef, near Sadot, where construction started some months ago.

Additional houses are being built at Moshav Nir Avraham (20), Moshav Netiv Ha'asara (12), Moshav Ugda (12), and at the Avshalom regional centre at Sadot (14).

There are now eight settlements in the Rafah salient in various stages of construction that may be classified as new settlements:

Holit--A few dozen civilians will participate in the changeover ceremony of that nahal settlement into a civilian kibbutz on Thursday.

Talmey Yosef, in the Sadot grouping of moshavim--There are several houses here in an advanced stage of construction with no infrastructure or agricultural development.

Peri'el, also in the Sadot grouping--Yesterday a JNF bulldozer was finishing ground preparations. Construction work on foundations has already begun.

Qatif, in the Gaza Strip, near Khan Yunis--An access road has been completed, foundations for the first houses were seen yesterday, and a crane was seen waiting to begin construction.

Qatif Bet, adjacent to Qatif Alef--Yesterday, JNF bulldozers were in the initial stages of ground-breaking.

Haruvit Alef, Bet and Gimmel, adjacent to Moshav Haruvit--Yesterday three JNF bulldozers continued ground preparation.

Settlement Budget Up Sharply

TA091214Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[By DAVAR economic correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Text] The budget proposal for next [fiscal] year includes a considerable increase in activities aimed at developing the new settlements beyond the "green line." According to the proposal, the budget allotted the Jewish Agency settlement section will have a real growth of 35 percent, from 260 million Israeli pounds to 430 million pounds. This budget is meant to implement the decisions so far taken on the settlement issued by the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs and by the government.

The issue in question is the establishment of 11 new settlements beyond the green line: 3 on the Golan Heights, 3 in Judaea and Samaria and 5 in the Rafah approaches and Sinai. Settlements other than these, including some of the operations now being carried out in the Rafah approaches, have not been allocated a budget and will require drawing funds from the budgetary reserves.

Rafah Settlers Meet Yadin

TA101242Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Jan 78 p 4 TA

[Excerpt] A delegation of settlers from the Rafah approaches was received yesterday by Deputy Prime Minister Yadin in his office. "We came in order to express our concern in view of the situation. The talks were indeed candid and open but, to our regret, we have not been satisfied," they said.

According to them, Professor Yadin promised [as published], as they requested, that the government will see to it that they remain under full Israeli sovereignty. On the other hand, he clearly promised that the government will not desert them and will also handle the development momentum in the existing settlements and their vicinity. In addition their defense, by an Israeli defensive force, will be guaranteed after the region is handed over to Egyptian sovereignty.

"These remarks are of some comfort, but this was not what we wanted. We want to remain under full Israeli sovereignty and want direct [territorial] continuity with the State of Israel to be maintained," added the settlers, who later went to the Knesset to talk with as many Knesset members as possible from all factions.

Many Seek Land in Yamit

TA091335Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 9 Jan 78 TA

[Text] A large number of people have applied to buy land in Yamit. This is against the background of a continuing debate on the future of the Rafah salient town.

Our reporter says most of the land allotments have already been sold, mainly to people who want to build their homes in Yamit.

BANGLADESH

FRG ECONOMIC COOPERATION MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

BK091556Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 8 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The West German minister for economic cooperation, Mrs Marie Schlei, has said her country will continue to support Bangladesh in its economic and social reconstruction. Talking to newsmen on her arrival in Dacca this afternoon on a 4-day official visit to Bangladesh, Mrs Schlei said that the volume of economic cooperation will not reduce, rather it will improve.

Mrs Schlei said she is the first member of the federal government to visit Bangladesh. She said her country is (?ready) to provide additional assistance to Bangladesh in the field of commodity aid. Replying to a question about the quantum of aid to be given to the developing countries, the West German minister said DM 12 billion have been earmarked for the poorest countries in the next financial year. Bangladesh will get the maximum, she added.

She said during her stay in Bangladesh she will sign a number of agreements providing Bangladesh aid worth DM 140 million. Mrs Schlei said her country could take up joint ventures with this country on cattle breeding [words indistinct]. She said during her talks with Bangladesh leaders she will try to know the real problems of this country and hold wide-ranging discussions on bilateral and economic relations. The two sides will also discuss future projects to be covered by German assistance.

During her stay in Dacca, Mrs Schlei will call on President Ziaur Rahman. She will also meet the presidential adviser for foreign affairs before leaving Dacca for Rangoon on Thursday. The West German minister is accompanied by a high-powered delegation consisting of officials of her ministry, top representatives of the German Bank for Aid and Development and the agency for technical aid.

IMPLEMENTATION OF FARAKKA ACCORD RUNS INTO DIFFICULTY

BK081044Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1020 GMT 8 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Dacca, Jan 8 (AFP)--The implementation of the Farakka agreement signed late last year between Bangladesh and India over long disputed Ganges water sharing and scheduled to be effective from January 1 last, ran into difficulties due to differences on the number of joint experts and observers to be posted in each other's territory for recording the flow and discharge of the Ganges.

The influential weekly HOLIDAY in a report today said while a two-member Indian team had already arrived and taken up its observation and recording assignment at Hardinge Bridge in the downstream of the Ganges in Bangladesh, the fate of a five-member Bangladesh team scheduled to leave here for Farakka on December 27 to man two observation points across the border remained uncertain due to the refusal of the Indian Government to issue visas to them.

The report said India was not agreeing to stationing of five Bangladesh engineers and experts in the "joint observation-cum-recording of the river's discharge and flow at two vital distribution points" at the barrage and feeder canal at Farakka.

According to the weekly, India argues five persons are not required for manning two points while Bangladesh says it requires a minimum of six persons even if observations are made on an 8-hour shift basis. It is understood that the Indo-Bangladesh joint committee set up under provisions of the Farakka agreement met twice during the last 2 months but "could not sort out all the bottlenecks."

INDIA

CALLAGHAN, DESAI REACH AGREEMENT IN NUCLEAR TALKS

ID101055Y London GUARDIAN in English 10 Jan 78 pp 1, 22 LD

[Article from Simon Winchester in New Delhi]

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Callaghan, appears to have scored a diplomatic triumph here in protracted talks with the Indian prime minister, Mr Desai, over the thorny issue of nuclear proliferation.

It has been agreed that India will relax its ban on international inspection of its nuclear installations as soon as the United States and the Soviet Union conclude negotiations--later this year, in Mr Callaghan's view--on a comprehensive test ban treaty.

India will not, however, sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, as America has demanded--and to this Mr Callaghan has apparently agreed. He said here yesterday that, unlike his American counterparts, he no longer regarded the nonproliferation treaty as essential to solving the problem of nuclear proliferation. It was merely an adjunct, and for India to permit inspection of its atomic installations, as Mr Desai had now agreed, was, in Downing Street's view, sufficient.

The agreement--which Mr Callaghan sees as important "for the future of the world for the next 20 or 30 years,"--was apparently reached despite Mr Carter's evident failure during his two-day visit here last week. But it is not entirely clear who has moved the most--and inspection of the available material suggests that it may have been Mr Callaghan, and that without the seeming concurrence of Washington, which, certainly on Capitol Hill, assumes a very cold and blunt attitude.

Mr Desai has been determined in his view that India would not sign the non-proliferation treaty--which it considers a discriminatory document, loaded in favour of those nations who possess nuclear arsenals--unless the major atomic powers signed a comprehensive test ban treaty outlawing all tests, including ones for peaceful applications of atomic detonation--and set about reducing the size of their atomic stockpiles.

When Mr Carter, apparently either badly briefed or choosing to ignore advice, blundered in and told Mr Desai that he would have to sign the nonproliferation treaty or else, it was widely assumed that India's back had been put up so much that any movement on the matter would have to wait several months.

Over the weekend, though, it seems that Mr Callaghan has engineered some kind of compromise. Under the new arrangement, Mr Desai is to be allowed to forget big-power demands that he sign the nonproliferation treaty. All that Mr Callaghan wanted was that the Indian Government should open all its nuclear installations to inspection by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency. Mr Desai said he would be happy to agree, providing there was basic international agreement on a comprehensive treaty.

This, until the Callaghan-Desai meetings began, had been another sticking-point. Mr Desai had made it clear that he wanted all five major nuclear powers--the United States, Soviet Union, Britain, France, and China--to sign, and since neither France nor China are taking part in the Geneva talks, it all seemed something of an impossible dream.

Now, though, Mr Desai is agreeing to undertake his part of the deal if only the three principals--the United States, Russia and Britain--sign. This, a senior British source said last night, could happen during 1978. The Geneva talks on ending all testing and on reducing the levels of arms stockpiles were, according to this source, going extremely well.

Given an agreement before December 31, it seems probable that Mr Desai will throw open the few Indian stations that are closed to the IAEA to full inspection--indeed, to the "fullscope safeguards"--to which President Carter has repeatedly referred.

In diplomatic terms the agreement appears to have resulted from two concessions. From Mr Callaghan (though it is not known whether Washington sanctioned it) has come significantly, a public dilution of the importance of the nonproliferation treaty. "India could accept full safeguards," Mr Callaghan said, "without adhering to the treaty, and that's why I regarded it as nonessential." From Mr Desai came a less significant relaxation of his stance that France and China must sign the comprehensive test ban treaty before he would move. "China will also come round one day," Mr Desai said. "After all, if the others have, what is the point in China holding out?"

It is not yet clear what the American reaction to this agreement will be. Only last week five aggressive American senators, who have told the Indian Government of congressional measures to cut off U.S. nuclear fuel supplies for the Indian Tarapur station, held a press conference to underline their point.

Mr Callaghan made it clear last night that he checked with Mr Desai every one of his public remarks on the subject. And it can be assumed that Washington was also told of the move.

Callaghan Addresses Parliament

BK0910211Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Addressing members of parliament, Mr Callaghan said India and Britain can work together to build a bridge of understanding between the developed and developing nations, nuclear and nonnuclear weapon states and alined and nonalined countries. Mr Callaghan urged India to use its influence for an early resumption of the Paris talks between the developing and developed nations.

Referring to the Rhodesian situation Mr Callaghan issued a forthright warning to Mr Ian Smith saying that the Anglo-American proposal is the last alternative to a bloody war. Mr Smith, he said, must recognize the principle of one-man, one-vote and appealed to the nationalist leaders to sink their diifferences and work unitedly.

Welcoming Mr Callaghan, the prime minister, Mr Desai, said that today in India parliamentary democracy is functioning in the fullest freedom. He declared that India is determined to preserve democracy in all its essential features. Mr Desai pointed out that an attempt was made 2 years ago to bypass parliament, to take away authority from it and make it subordinate to an individual. Happily those responsible for it were dismissed unceremoniously by the Indian people in a massive vote.

The chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Mr Jatti, referred to the similarity of parliamentary institutions and systems of government in India and Britain. He said the frequent exchanges in economic and other fields have contributed in bringing the two countries closer to each other.

DESAI DISCUSSES NUCLEAR POLICY WITH U.S. SENATORS

BK051621Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister has said that if India does not get enriched uranium it would suffer, but this would be accepted in the spirit of satyagraha [passive resistance to uphold truth]. India may also improvise to get over the difficulties.

During an informal discussion with a delegation of five American senators in New Delhi today, Mr Morarji Desai said that no matter what any other country does, India will never have atomic weapons. He said that this position has been made clear from the very beginning, but it is surprising that even after this India has been asked for guarantees and safeguards, and that too by countries which continue to build up their atomic arsenal. Mr Desai said that before India could agree to sign the non-proliferation treaty, the nuclear powers must give up atomic tests and explosions and give an undertaking of destroying their stockpiles in a few years' time.

The delegation was led by Senator Harrison Arlington Williams with Senator Ted Stevens as cochairman. The American ambassador, Mr Goheen, was present at the meeting.

The senators also asked questions about recent political developments in this country. Mr Desai told them that the development plan has been reoriented to bring the benefits of progress to 70 percent of the people who live in villages

GANDHI APPEARS BEFORE SHAH COMMISSION IN DELHI

BK090952Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Mrs Indira Gandhi today appeared before the Shah Commission in response to the summons issued to her. When Mr Justice Shah inquired whether she was making any statement in reply to the notice, her counsel, Mr Frank Anthony, raised several legal and other arguments and challenged the procedure adopted by the commission. He contended that Mrs Gandhi has been placed in the position of an accused and was now being asked to disclose her defense in advance. He submitted that the whole exercise was in the nature of a political vendetta against Mrs Gandhi and that she is the prime target of the inquiry.

Mr Justice Shah intervened to make it clear that the notice issued to Mrs Gandhi was in respect of the cases in which she had been asked to give her statement. He assured Mr Anthony that she will be given ample opportunity to cross-examine the witnesses on various points. She could also explain her conduct in these transactions. Mr Anthony also told the commission that it has no authority to go into the legality of the declaration of the emergency or into the propriety of the advice tendered by the then prime minister to the president. Mr Shah assured him that he was not going into the declaration of the emergency as such but only into the circumstances leading to the declaration. Mr Anthony remarked that this in effect would mean that the commission is seeking to do indirectly what it cannot do directly, as the advice given by the then prime minister would come in some form or the other during such an inquiry.

Mr Anthony repeated several arguments earlier advanced by Mrs Gandhi in her two statements to the commission. He objected to the freewheeling comments made by the home minister, Mr Charan Singh, who made it look as if the Shah Commission was an appendage of the Home Ministry. He also mentioned that Mrs Gandhi had been subjected to a trial by the press. Mr Anthony will continue his arguments.

In his intervention Mr Justice Shah observed that if any person made a statement damaging the reputation of another and summons have to be issued to the person maligned for replying to the charges, without the commission itself coming to a conclusion on the matter, it will not be one lifetime but a hundred lifetimes to complete the inquiry. About 48,000 complaints were received by the commission.

The commission hall was packed to capacity by representatives of national and the world press, leading political workers and former ministers who had been summoned by the commission as witnesses. A large crowd had collected outside Patiala House, where the commission is holding its hearings and shouted slogans both for and against Mrs Gandhi. The police moved in to separate the two groups to avoid a clash. Eighteen supporters of Mrs Gandhi were arrested this morning for defying the prohibitory orders.

PAKISTAN

BHUTTO 'DEMOCRACY DAY' DEMONSTRATORS ARRESTED

BK060248Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0040 GMT 6 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Karachi, Jan 6 (AFP)--Over 200 supporters of former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and his PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Party were reportedly arrested in different parts of Pakistan yesterday as they tried to mark their self-proclaimed "democracy day."

Under existing martial law rules, all marches and rallies are forbidden. No official nationwide total of arrests was given. But the Sind provincial government here said 53 people had been arrested in the province, tried by summary military courts, and sentenced to punishments ranging from flogging to a year at hard labor.

"Democracy day," called by Begum Nusrat Bhutto on the occasion of her husband's 50th birthday to press for his release from jail, met a general lack of response in major cities and towns.

Pakistan People's Party sources here claimed partial success in rural parts of Sind, where Mr Bhutto has for long found solid political support.

Ghafoor Ahmed, secretary-general of the anti-Bhutto Pakistan National Alliance (PNA), the pre-martial-law opposition coalition, described the attempted PPP demonstrations as "a total flop."

He said the PPP leadership could not pose as the champion of democracy because it had rigged elections, curbed the power of the courts, suspended basic human rights, and unilaterally amended the constitution.

NUSRAT BHUTTO PRESIDES OVER PPP MEETING IN LAHORE

BK061602Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Jan 78 BK

[Text] A 2-day session of the Central Executive Committee of the Pakistan People's Party began in Lahore today. The party acting chairman, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, presided over it. The information secretary of the party, Mr Meraj Khalid, later said that the party decisions will be announced tomorrow afternoon.

BALUCHISTAN AUTHORITIES WITHDRAW CONSPIRACY CHARGES

BK081350Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 8 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The Baluchistan government has withdrawn charges against those being tried in the conspiracy case.

An official spokesman told radio Pakistan's Quetta representative today that 34 persons were being tried. They included Mr Ghaus Baksh Bizenjo, Mr Khair Baksh Marree, Mr Sher Mohammad Maree and Mr Gul Khan Nasib. There is also a murder case against Mr Gul Khan Nasib in which, too, he has been (?allowed) on bail.

SRI LANKA

FINANCE MINISTER LEAVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT TO INDIA

BK091623Y Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 9 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The minister of finance and planning, Mr Ronnie de Mel, has left for India for talks on India-Sri Lanka economic cooperation at the invitation of the Indian Government. This is the continuation of talks initiated by Mr de Mel with Mr H.M. Patel, the Indian finance minister, when they met in Washington during the 3-day meeting of the World Bank and the IMF. Mr de Mel will also have talks with the Indian prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, and with the industries minister, Mr George Fernandes.

The discussions in New Delhi will be concerned with a loan from India, joint industrial ventures and possible Indian investment in the free trade zone. From 1966 onward India has extended to Sri Lanka several loans aggregating about 450 million rupees. The recent practice has been to extend the loan of rupees 50 million at approximately 2 years interval. The current loan has now been fully exhausted. As a result of the friendly relations that exist between the Janata Party government of India and the J.R. Jayawardene government in Sri Lanka, it is expected that India will undoubtedly increase its level of aid.

Indian aid has been largely used for the import of bus chassis, railway wagons, machine tools and (?agricultural) equipment. It is also expected [words indistinct].

Mr M.H.M. Naina-Marikar has been sworn in as acting minister of finance and planning until the return of Mr Ronnie de Mel.

BRIEFS

FOREIGN OIL EXPLORATION--The minister of industries and scientific affairs has decided to permit foreign companies to undertake oil exploration in Sri Lanka. The ministry has already invited several foreign companies to conduct exploration. In the event these explorations prove to be successful, the companies will have to pay a percentage of their profits to the Sri Lanka Government. The private sector will also be encouraged to undertake the exploration of natural resources in collaboration with foreign companies. In this connection prior agreements should be reached within the ministry. The government has taken such a decision since it is not in a position to spend money for the exploration of natural resources of which results are unpredictable. [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 31 Dec 77 BK]

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